Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-060
Wednesday
29 March 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-060 *29 March 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Negotiations Begin in Washington 1
Progress on Security Stressed *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Mar]* 1
Agreement Said 'Close' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Articles Says 'Signals' of Progress Seen *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Mar]* 1
13th Round of Israeli-Palestinian Talks Open 2
Palestinians Expect 'No Progress' *[MENA]* 2
Negotiators Comment on Meeting *[MENA]* 3
Second Session of Talks Held *[MENA]* 3
Talks on Displaced Palestinians To Resume 7 Apr *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Mar]* 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Move for Libya Oil Embargo Denounced *[AFP]* 4
'Abd-al-Majid Stresses Unified Stance on NPT *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 25 Mar]* 5

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Mar 5

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th: Israel Proposes Statehood for Gaza *[MA'ARIV 28 Mar]* 7
Sees 'State' Within 5 Years *[AL-QUDS 27 Mar]* 7
PA Rejects Phased Withdrawal From Town Centers *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 7
'Abd-Rabbuh Stresses Need for Implementation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Al-Surani Warns: PLO Cannot Continue 'Peace Lie' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Mar]* .. 7
Qaddumi Begins Australia Visit To Solicit Aid *[AL-RA'Y 28 Mar]* 8
'Arafat To Meet Russia's Kozyrev in Gaza 1 Apr *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Spy' for Israel Reportedly To Be Released *[AL-SHIRA' 27 Mar]* 9
Al-Shak'ah Said Prevented From Leaving for Amman *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Mar]* 9
Official: Distribution of Passports in 'Next 2 Days' *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Israel's Planned Jerusalem Celebration Condemned *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Editorial Lauds Gore Visit to Jericho *[AL-AQSA 25 Mar]* 9
PFLP, DFLP Said To Seek Return to Territories *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Mar]* 10
Hamas: Opposition Factions Reactivate Alliance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Mar]* 10
Hamas Submits Demands to Palestinian Authority *[AL-MAJALLAH 26 Mar-1 Apr]* 11
Driver Shot Dead After Collision With Israeli Vehicle *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
2 Israelis, 1 Arab Killed in Gaza Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri: Situation 'Improving Every Day' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Mar]* 12
Interior Minister on Causes of 'Conspiracy' *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Addresses 'Misled' Youths *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Ben Bella Rejects Zeroual Call for Meetings *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Mar]* 16
Presidency Holds Talks With MAJD Delegation *[Algiers Radio]* 17

MAJD Head Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Al-Nahdah Movement Leader Interviewed *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Mar]* 17
'Secret Dialogue' With FIS Reportedly Resumed *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Mar]* 19
FIS Founding Chairman, Leaders Under House Arrest *[Paris International]* 19
Security Services Report Killing 15 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 19
GIA Leader Reportedly Killed May Be Djamel Zitouni *[Paris TV]* 19
Salvation Army Video Affirms Loyalty to FIS Leadership
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Mar] 20
Journalist Responds to Sifi's Refutation of Interview *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Mar]* . 20
Dailies Pay Tribute To Slain EL-MOUDJAHID Chief *[MAP]* 21
Presidency Receives Berber Delegation *[Algiers Radio]* 21
MCB's Head Ends Boycott of Schools *[Algiers Radio]* 21

Egypt

Envoy to Washington: U.S. Uses Double Standards *[AL-SHA'B 14 Mar]* 22
Discusses Bilateral Ties, NPT *[Cairo Radio]* 22
Cairo Concern Over NPT, U.S. Aid, Gore Trip Viewed *[AL-AHALI 22 Mar]* 23
Gore's Visit Said To Mark 'New Phase' in Ties *[AL-AHRAM 25 Mar]* 24
Security Measures on Gore Trip Criticized *[AL-AHRAM 25 Mar]* 24
'Most' of Gore's NPT Proposals Reportedly Rejected *[AL-ITTIHAD 22 Mar]* 25
Al-Kabariti on Jerusalem, NPT, Embargo Against Iraq *[MENA]* 25
Paper Rejects Israel's Exception From NPT *[MENA]* 25
Mubarak Receives Call From Israeli President *[MENA]* 26
Syrian Deputy Minister Arrives for Talks *[MENA]* 26
Sudanese Minister Says Relations 'Distorted' *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Sudanese Speaker on Ties, Elections *[MENA]* 26
Reportage on Visit by Russia's Kozyrev 27
Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 27
Talks Open at Foreign Ministry *[MENA]* 27
Arab League Chief, Kozyrev Meet *[MENA]* 27
Musa, Kozyrev Hold News Conference *[Cairo Radio]* 27
Mubarak Meets Kozyrev *[MENA]* 27
Musa, Kozyrev Comment on Talks, NPT *[MENA]* 28
Cabinet Reviews Reports on NPT, 'Terrorism,' Economy *[Cairo Radio]* 28
6 Wounded, 1 Civilian Killed in Shooting *[AFP]* 29
Labor Party Official on Alliance With Islamists *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 22 Mar]* 29

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Breaking Air Embargo *[Tripoli Radio]* 30
Russia's Zhirinovskiy Concludes Visit, Departs 33
Agreement Reached on Closer Cooperation *[JANA]* 33
Statement Issued at End of Visit *[JANA]* 33
Zhirinovskiy Departs Tripoli *[JANA]* 34

Morocco

PRC Trade Minister Begins 'Important' Visit *[MAP]* 34
Better Relations Pledged *[Rabat Radio]* 34
Two Cooperation Agreements Signed *[Rabat TV]* 35
Talks Conclude *[Rabat TV]* 35
Minister, Japanese Envoy Sign Cooperation Agreement *[Rabat Radio]* 35
King on Algerian Crisis, Mideast Peace Process *[Paris LE MONDE 27 Mar]* 35
Party Leader on Algerian Opposition, Filali *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Mar]* 37
Rights Minister: Violations Not 'Systematic Policy' *[MAP]* 37

Sudan

Rebels Claim Government Bombing Despite Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 38
'Armed Group' Attacks Land Registration Office *[Omdurman Radio]* 38

President Receives Message From Zairian Counterpart *[Omdurman TV]* 38
President Meets Cuban Envoy, Stresses Cooperation *[SUNA]* 38
Vice President Commends Iraqi Achievements *[SUNA]* 39
Foreign Minister Taha on Garang, Arab League *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Mar]* 39
Opposition Leader on Future 'Union' With Egypt *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Mar]* 40
Peace Council Delegation Reports on Kenyan Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 40
Extradition Treaty With Ethiopia Confirmed *[Omdurman Radio]* 41

Tunisia

Source Denies Reports of Operations in Algeria *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Mar]* 41
Ben Ali Expresses Anxiety Over Burundi Situation *[Tunis Radio]* 41
President, Spanish Defense Minister Meet *[Tunis Radio]* 41

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Finance Ministers Conclude Meeting *[SPA]* 43

Bahrain

Controversy Reported Over Chief of Security *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 13 Feb]* 43

Kuwait

Ekeus: Iraq's Answers on Biological Arms 'Unconvincing' *[KUNA]* 44

Oman

Naval Commander Holds Talks With Iranian Envoy *[IRNA]* 44

Saudi Arabia

Minister Receives Yemeni-Saudi Memo Ratification Instrument *[Sanaa Radio]* 44
Fahd Presides Over Council of Ministers Meeting *[SPA]* 44
Reportage on French Defense Minister's Visit 45
Arrives in Riyadh *[Riyadh TV]* 45
Meets Prince Sultan, Departs *[Riyadh TV]* 45

IRAQ

Official: U.S. Case Can Be Solved Diplomatically *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 46
PRC, Russia, France Against U.S.-UK Resolution *[INA]* 46
Daily Terms Proposal 'Evil Attempt' *[INA]* 46
Analyst Claims U.S. Wants To 'Control' Region *[INA]* 46
Leadership Receives 'Positive Signs' on Blockade *[AL-WASAT 27 Mar]* 47
Baghdad 'Assassination Group' To Counter 'Uprising' *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 47
SAIRI Leader Condemns Turkish 'Assault' *[IRNA]* 47
KDP Official on Recent Fighting, Turkish Moves *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 48
KDP Terms Anti-Regime Coup Attempt 'Farce' *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 48
Barzani Claims PUK Storms Kurdistan Parliament *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 49
PUK Fighters Recapture Banjwin, Other Positions *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 49
Peshmerga Said To Take Control of Villages *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 50
Further on Tribal Pro-Saddam Rallies *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Mar]* 50
Saddam Allocates Funds for Education *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Mar]* 51
UNESCO Acknowledges Country's Soil Invention *[BABIL 12 Mar]* 51
Communications Minister Meets Swedish Delegation *[INA]* 51

ISRAEL

Peres Says No Breakthrough in Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
Interviewed on Talks, 1 Jun IDF Pullout *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 52

Peres Denies Proposal To Grant Gaza Statehood *[Jerusalem Radio]* 53
Peres on Egyptian Ties, Fears of Dominance *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 53
Savir: Syria Still Supporting Terrorists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 54
Rabin Says PA Over-Recruits Police Officers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 54
Rabin To Visit Bonn for Meeting With Kohl *[Jerusalem Radio]* 54
IDF Said To Evacuate Nabulus, Janin HQs 1 Jun *[Jerusalem Channel 2 TV]* 54
Police Stations To Move After IDF Redeployment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Weizman: Talks With Turkey's Demirel Unrelated to Kurds *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Commentary Urges Nonconventional Deterrence Line *[HA'ARETZ 28 Mar]* 55
No Signals Received From Russian-Launched Satellite *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 56

JORDAN

More Reportage, Comments on Husayn's U.S. Visit 57
King, Christopher Hold News Conference *[Amman TV]* 57
Husayn Meets With Congressmen, Christopher *[Amman Radio]* 58
Foreign Minister on Washington Meetings *[AL-RA'Y 29 Mar]* 59
Visit Expected To Yield Positive Results *[AL-RA'Y 28 Mar]* 59
United States Urged To Honor Commitments *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Mar]* 60
Washington Meeting Shows U.S. 'Respect' *[AL-ASWAQ 28 Mar]* 60
U.S. Appreciation Praised *[AL-ASWAQ 29 Mar]* 61
King's Visit 'Fulfilled' All Hopes *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Mar]* 61
Extradition Treaty With United States Signed *[Amman TV]* 62
Regent, Army Commander Meet With U.S. General *[Amman Radio]* 62
Cassation Court Repeals Decision on 'Afghans' Case *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Mar]* 62

LEBANON

Columnist Views Perry's Tour, Iranian Threats *[AL-SAFIR 24 Mar]* 63
Hizballah Leader Denies Contacts With U.S. *[IRNA]* 63
Buwayz Assails Palestinian Leaders on Refugees *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Mar]* 63

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Briefs Cabinet on Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 65
Hebron Operation Called Result of 'Occupation' *[TISHRIN 21 Mar]* 65
Commentary Ridicules Israeli Statements on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 65
'Equitable Peace' Urged; Israeli 'Rumors' Denied *[Damascus Radio]* 66
Aims of 'Suspect' Israel-Iraq Contacts Examined *[TISHRIN 14 Mar]* 66
Paper Terms Arab League NPT Decision 'Painful' *[AL-THAWRAH 25 Mar]* 67
Arab League Support for Syria, Lebanon Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 67
Russian Envoy Cited on Upcoming Kozyrev Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 68
Speaker Addresses World Parliamentarians on NPT *[Damascus Radio]* 69
Construction Agreement Signed With Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 69

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government, Taleban Groups Continuing Fighting *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 70
Taleban Attack 'Foiled'; 50 Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 70
Kabul Ulema Council Issues Statement on Taleban *[Kabul Radio]* 70
Rabbani Approves Promotion for General *[Kabul Radio]* 70

Bangladesh

Article Views Prevailing Crisis in Country *[DAINIK INQILAB 17 Mar]* 70

India

Hillary Clinton Arrives on Goodwill Visit 72

Visits Orphanage, U.S. Embassy *[THE ASIAN AGE 29 Mar]* 72
Police Break Up Protest *[AFP]* 73
U.S. Said Indirectly Responsible for 'Terrorism' *[ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA 21 Mar]* 73
Bihar Issue Dominates Parliament Proceedings *[Delhi Radio]* 74
Election Vote Counting Begins *[Delhi Radio]* 74
President's Rule Imposed *[Delhi Radio]* 75
Commentary Views President's Rule *[Delhi Radio]* 75

Iran

Tehran Condemns Sanctions, U.S. Effort on Libya, Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Navy Commander: U.S. Forces' Presence in Gulf 'Illegal' *[IRNA]* 76
U.S. Military Officials' Remarks Criticized *[Tehran International]* 76
Nicosia Parade Disproves Western Allegations *[IRNA]* 76
First Consignment of Ferro-Chrome Exported to Japan *[Tehran Radio]* 77

Nepal

'Feverish' Communist Efforts To Hold Power Reported *[AFP]* 77
Adhikari on Relationship With India *[Delhi International]* 78

Pakistan

Police Arrest Man for Contact With Ramzi, Kansi *[KHABRAIN 29 Mar]* 78
Muslim Group Blames CIA for Karachi Murders *[THE NATION 29 Mar]* 78
2 More FBI Agents Arrive; New Leads Reported *[THE NEWS 28 Mar]* 78
Conference Urges Effective Measures for 'Terrorism' *[Islamabad International]* 79
Hillary Clinton Concludes 2-Day Visit 79
Visit Seen as 'Positive Sign' *[THE NATION 28 Mar]* 79
Asif: 'Favorable Environment' Created *[THE NEWS 29 Mar]* 80
Editorial on Bhutto's 'Humiliating' Visit to U.S. *[THE MUSLIM 26 Mar]* 80
Editorial Hopes Visit To Aid Cooperation *[PAKISTAN 29 Mar]* 81
Hamilton's Letter on Pressler Amendment Viewed *[JANG 16 Mar]* 82
Paper Welcomes Steps To Produce Fighter Jet *[JANG 20 Mar]* 82
'Black Monitoring Box' To Be Installed at Siachen *[PAKISTAN 15 Mar]* 83
Bipartisan Declaration on Kashmir Issued *[Islamabad TV]* 83
Fifty-Member British Investment Mission Arrives *[Islamabad Radio]* 84

Sri Lanka

Lapsed Deadline Causes 'Red Alert' *[AFP]* 84

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Negotiations Begin in Washington

Progress on Security Stressed

MM2803093795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khalil al-Ma'luf: "Syria Rejects Meeting at Chiefs of Staff Until Progress Has Been Achieved"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington—Direct bilateral negotiations begin between Syria and Israel today, Monday [27 March], with real U.S. participation, in order to continue discussing the principles of security arrangements between the two sides. Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich held at the State Department on Friday evening—in the presence of Ambassador Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of peace efforts—a short meeting that lasted for about half an hour with a view to preparing for today's negotiations.

Sources acquainted with the negotiations have said that success in reaching an agreement on the principles of security arrangements would open the door to further positive measures. The sources added that, while the Israeli side insisted on the need to begin military meetings at chief of staff level, the Syrian side linked such meetings to the occurrence of progress in the substance of the matter, which is currently under discussion. For this reason, it seems that Ross' Middle East tour depends on the degree of progress achieved in the current Washington negotiations over security arrangements.

The same sources stressed that Syria insists that a meeting at chief of staff level cannot take place until progress is achieved. Because failure, as happened at the end of last December, would lead to "torpedoing" the peace process.

Other informed circles say that what has been achieved so far is a confirmation from Israel that the Golan issue is a security issue, as far as it is concerned. And that it has no ideological or religious links with the Heights.

The circles add that Israel, which considers Syria its main enemy because it possesses weapons posing a threat to Israel's security, is seeking to achieve three things:

First, to prepare security arrangements that assure both sides.

Second, to end the state of enmity between the two countries and to move to a state of peace.

Third, to reach an agreement with Syria and Lebanon leading to a comprehensive solution to the conflict, on the grounds that Damascus is the key to this solution.

The circles point out that Israel and the United States know full well that Syria is not prepared to sign any agreement not guaranteeing an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. However, they added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is so far not prepared to embark on a "courageous step" in that direction.

The circles say that the U.S. side is trying to infiltrate this barrier, and that it now knows that there are the following requirements for an agreement with Syria:

—Ways of implementing a full withdrawal formula in return for a full peace and objective security arrangements that assure both sides about their security;

—An agreement with Syria is linked to an agreement with Lebanon; Syria considers this an "organic question" and that the 4 June line is undebatable, because it is in line with the foundations of the Madrid conference and Security Council Resolution 242. The same applies to full withdrawal from Lebanon, since it too is in line with international legitimacy and Security Council Resolution 425.

It is clear that Washington's direct participation in the negotiations and the new role it has begun to play, especially as regards providing compromises, reflects the U.S. officials' conviction that there is a brief opportunity that should not be missed. [passage omitted]

Agreement Said 'Close'

TA2903065795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli officials in Washington have said that in the talks between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors the sides have come close to an agreement on the principles concerning the security arrangements in the Golan Heights after Israel withdraws from territory there.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that since yesterday U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been taking part in the formulation of the understandings regarding the security arrangements. Secretary Christopher will continue to participate in the meetings of the ambassadors until the end of the week in a bid to finalize the understandings.

In view of the progress in the talks, Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. peace team, will come to the Middle East next week. After visiting Damascus and Jerusalem, a date will be set for the resumption of the officers' talks. Our correspondent points out that at this point no mention is being made of a meeting between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff.

Articles Says 'Signals' of Progress Seen

MM2903114795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Mar 95 p 15

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "Signals"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] There are signals in and around the Syrian-Israeli negotiations which must be read well to conclude that progress has been achieved or that the stage of settling the latest difficult points is drawing near.

For example, this includes the fact that the "two ambassadors' negotiations" were not resumed in their previous form a week ago. They were resumed with direct U.S. participation—the first of its kind since the negotiations process began—and contrary to a principle set by the United States, which insisted on the need for the negotiations to be direct between Israel and any Arab party concerned with the peace process.

True, Israel tried to belittle the importance of this participation and its effectiveness. But Washington did not decide to participate—or this is what should be the case—in order to be a mere spectator without any role. Of course, it is not expected to exert any pressure, especially on Israel, However, its presence as a direct third party could contribute to reducing its bias and encourage or finally convince it to play the role it has always claimed, whether under the name "impartial broker" or "full partner."

In a next step, the return of the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff to the negotiations will be another signal to the effect that the "process" is progressing more and more, even though this does not allow predictions about the agenda leading to the announcement of accords.

Israeli reactions and comments on the new negotiation course are also a signal that Rabin's government is now convinced that the best way to contest the next elections and win against the Likud is to proceed with the "peace program" on the basis of which it won the previous elections. Without doubt, facing voters with peace agreements on the various tracks—regardless of the content and form of every agreement—is much better than facing them with statements about the difficulties or repeating obsolete phrases such as "no concessions" or "no to withdrawals."

Observers believe that there are other signals which will in the near future mark the achievement of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. The most important of these signals is controlling Hizballah activities in southern Lebanon, or rather, halting resistance operations. Numerous authoritative circles believe that this demand—on which the United States and Israel insist, and which Syria believes is a must at a certain point during the progress of the negotiations—will not face major difficulties, because it does not mean eliminating the existence of Hizballah or its extinction. It specifically means diverting the activities of this party to purely political aspects. These circles believe that Syria has so far been able to prove its seriousness in presenting peace as "a strategic option." And certainly it is encountering understanding in this connection from Iran, which has substantial political and military influence among Hizballah ranks.

Furthermore, this crucial signal paves the way for another signal to the effect that the Lebanese negotiation track too could—finally—begin to progress, albeit through its link with the Syrian track. As for the final substance and form of a settlement with Lebanon, it is not possible to imagine it without doubts and ambiguities. Predictions range between seeing this settlement from a U.S.-Israeli angle, summed up—as announced—in an Israeli withdrawal in favor of the Lebanese Army's full control of the south and the "security belt" (with a solution to the issue of the "South Lebanese Army" militia); and seeing this settlement from a Syrian angle, expecting Syrian influence in Lebanon to remain but in a manner different from what is happening now. Thus tackling the Lebanese presidential elections issue provides an further signal.

13th Round of Israeli-Palestinian Talks Open

Palestinians Expect 'No Progress'

NC2803150495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—The 13th round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the Palestinian legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip began in Cairo at noon today. The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the National Authority [PA], and on the Israeli side by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser in the foreign ministry.

Hasan 'Asfur, official in charge of the elections in the PA and member of the Palestinian delegation, said that the current round will debate, for two days, the discussions of the previous rounds regarding the structure of the Palestinian Council, number of its members, its powers, and international supervision of the elections. For his part Singer said that we will continue to discuss the structure of the Palestinian Council, noting the possibility of discussing any new ideas in this respect.

Palestinian sources in Cairo noted that no progress is expected to be made during the current round of negotiations due to the gap in the stances of the two sides on a number of main issues, including the number of the Palestinian Council members. These sources noted that the Palestinians demanded that the number be 100 whereas the Israeli side wants only 25 members. These sources also said that the Israeli side wants the powers of the Council to be limited and of an administrative nature whereas the Palestinian side wants the council members to have broad legislative powers and cover all Palestinian affairs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian side wants representatives for Arab Jerusalem in the Council whereas the Israeli side rejects this on the consideration that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, which the Palestinian side strongly rejects.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Negotiators Comment on Meeting

NC2803191695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1742 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], head of the Palestinian delegation to the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, has declared that the negotiations have entered a new stage.

He announced: We are working on a joint formula pertaining to several issues connected with the interim agreement that must be finalized in June.

In a news conference he held after the conclusion of the first round of negotiations in Cairo today, 'Urayqat said that there will be no separate agreement pertaining to the Palestinian legislative elections but there will be an annex on this issue in the overall interim agreement. He said that the agreement will also deal with the redeployment of Israeli forces to locations outside the Palestinian towns and villages, the transfer of powers to the Palestinians, and several other legal and economic affairs.

'Urayqat reported that other issues discussed today included the relationship between the proposed Palestinian legislative and executive authorities, particularly as an agreement has been reached to hold separate elections to choose the head of the PA and the members of legislative council. He explained that this will give the PA chairman the opportunity to pick the members of his government in a way that will place them under the supervision of the Palestinian legislative council.

He pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's agreement with the Israeli leaders that the interim agreement must be finalized before the end of July 1995 must be regarded as a sacred date.

'Urayqat criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks that there are no sacred dates and pointed out that this would mean that no agreement is binding.

He asserted that Rabin's continued hesitancy and his attempt not to commit himself to the agreed-upon date will lead to a situation where we will have no agreement to speak of.

'Urayqat added: The Gaza-Jericho agreement must not be viewed as a final agreement in itself but one that must be built on in line with the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He explained that parallel Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are due to have begun in Tel Aviv today to discuss the redeployment of Israeli forces so that an agreement on that issue would coincide with the agreement on holding legislative elections.

He declared that there will be no restrictions on Palestinians wishing to run for membership of the legislative council except for certain criteria like having the necessary qualifications and not having been convicted in morality-related criminal cases.

He said that any Palestinian who is 35 or older has the right to run for the PA chairman's office, explaining that President 'Arafat himself insisted on adopting this clause to give the opportunity to young Palestinians to run for office.

Yo'el Singer, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's legal adviser and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, declared that the round of negotiations that was held this morning was devoted to the legislative council's makeup and powers. He explained that agreement was reached on some issues but others are still unresolved, particularly the number of the legislative council's members and whether Jerusalem residents can participate in the elections.

Singer added: We have reached the middle of the road and will continue our negotiations tomorrow, Wednesday. We are trying to eliminate our disagreements with the Palestinians in order to reach an agreement on the elections.

Second Session of Talks Held

NC2903103895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza resumed this morning. The Palestinian side was led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, while the Israelis were led by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

In today's session the participants will continue discussing the legislative council's composition and all the relevant details.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat said after the first session yesterday that the talks focused on a formula for agreement on the Palestinian legislative council's composition, scheduled elections, and the jurisdiction of the council. He added that much has been covered in the discussion of power sharing between the executive and legislative authorities. Agreement was also reached on the right of every Palestinian over 18 to participate in the elections regardless of his political stance and religious affiliation.

Talks on Displaced Palestinians To Resume 7 Apr

JN2903095895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—An Arab-Israeli technical committee will meet on April 7 to resume discussions on the fate of Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war, sources said Tuesday amid reports that Israel has drawn up a paper that categorises the displaced into eight groups and estimating their number at 500,000.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, noted that the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt and Israel and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Amman on March 7 set up the technical committee which would discuss the modalities and mechanisms for defining and discussing the repatriation of the displaced.

"The technical committee which represents all the four parties, will meet on April 7, but the venue for the meeting is not decided yet," said one source.

During the ministerial meeting in Amman in March, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declined to acknowledge the right of the displaced to return to their homeland and spoke in general terms which shifted the responsibility for the displaced from Israel to the international community.

The Arab sides to the meeting described the outcome of the meeting as disappointing.

Meanwhile, a report carried in the local press said Israel had presented a paper, prepared by former military intelligence chief Shlomit Gazit, that categorised the displaced into four groups.

The first four groups which are eligible for repatriation, according to the report, are:

—Palestinians who were staying outside the occupied territories but were permanent residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This would include those who were working outside their homeland.

—Palestinians who left the territories with the Jordanian Army in the 1967 war.

—Palestinians who had permits to enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip but who decided not to go back.

—Palestinians who left in the second half of 1967—after the war—to join family members outside (who might have fled during the war).

The four other groups, according to the report, are:

—Palestinians who were expelled from the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a "security record" for anti-Israeli activities.

—Palestinians displaced from East Jerusalem.

—Palestinians displaced during or after the war but whose homes are now occupied by settlers.

—Palestinians who lost their homes in Palestine when the state of Israel was created in 1948 and moved to the West Bank and Gaza but were displaced again in the 1967 war.

According to the report, the paper was prepared by Mr. Gazit, a former Israeli Army intelligence chief. The report said the paper was signed by the Israeli side to the technical committee.

The report also said that Israel had indicated that the fate of the three groups in the second category could be subject to negotiation but there cannot be any repatriation of those in the first group of the second category—those expelled for anti-Israeli activities.

According to sources quoted in the report, Israel estimated the number of displaced—all groups included—at 500,000 compared with the Arab estimation of nearly 800,000 and all of them entitled to return home under the Declaration of Principles signed by the PLO and Israel in September 1993.

The fate of refugees from the 1948 war will be discussed at a later stage.

The sources reportedly said that Israel was suggesting a mechanism that would ensure the "gradual" return of the displaced in accordance with a "timetable at a rate of 4,000 per year in an orderly manner that does not adversely affect the security of Israel."

'Umar al-Khatib, the acting Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, said the Arab list includes all Palestinians displaced from their homeland and that the Arabs insist that Israel respect the right of all of them to be repatriated regardless of any consideration.

Mr. al-Khatib also said that priority should be given to those who were living in the occupied territories after the 1967 war but were stuck outside while their permits expired. Jordanian officials estimate their number at between 55,000 and 85,000.

Mr. al-Khatib also rejected the yearly 4,000 figure reportedly suggested by Israel and said this should depend on the economic situation of the occupied territories.

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Move for Libya Oil Embargo Denounced

NC2903063695 Paris AFP in English 2127 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 28 (AFP)—Arab League secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on Tuesday [28 March] denounced US moves to obtain an oil embargo on Libya for its suspected role in blowing up a Pan American airliner over Scotland.

"The escalation will harm Libya, the region and various parties which are trying to find a peaceful issue to this problem," 'Abd-al-Majid told AFP after talks here with Libya's foreign minister 'Umar al-Muntasir.

"Our principle is that the United Nations should conduct an enquiry into the documents recently published" about the 1988 explosion of the airliner above Lockerbie, which killed 270 people, he said.

He said he had sent a message containing this demand to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. "The documents prove that other parties than Libya are responsible" for the attack, 'Abd-al-Majid said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Documents from US air force intelligence published in January by the Scottish newspaper THE DAILY RECORD blame Iran and not Libya for the bombing.

Libya has been under air, military and other sanctions since April 1992 for refusing to hand over two suspects whom Washington and London want to put on trial in the United States or in Scotland for the blast.

They rejected an offer from Tripoli to have them tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The White House admitted Tuesday it thought it unlikely that it would receive broad support for an oil embargo.

'Abd-al-Majid Stresses Unified Stance on NPT

NC2903095895 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Umar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the resolution of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] did not include a position on whether or not the Arab countries will sign the treaty because the Arab countries in the next few days will hold consultations with the nonaligned countries to learn their final position on this issue. The Arab countries cannot announce their position before they complete these consultations, he said.

Those who are casting doubts on the Arab position, 'Abd-al-Majid said, should wait until 17 April. He noted that the seventh paragraph of the Arab resolution explicitly states the need for Israel to sign the NPT, and says that Israel should not be excluded because this would pose a serious threat to the region. He said the Arab resolution was not meant for oneupmanship, muscle-flexing, or adherence to positions that do not serve the Arab nation.

'Abd-al-Majid sent a (strongly worded) message to the radios that cast doubt on the unified Arab position, describing them as "out of tune." These radios, notably the BBC and Israeli radio, believe that the pan-Arab identity and the Arab League have lost their role. The secretary general stressed that this will never happen and can never be accepted.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Mar

NC2703184895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Perry Said Trying To Form Anti-Iran, Anti-Iraq Axis
2. Nuclear Chief Opposes NPT's Indefinite Extension
3. Secret Detention Camp Reported in al-Minya
4. Protests Reported Over Israel's Participation in Cairo Fair
5. Chief Editor Accuses Government of Backing Down on NPT
6. University Professor Calls for Referendum on NPT
7. Muslim Brotherhood Official Discusses Arab League Anniversary
8. Shaykh al-Ghazali Warns of Western Cultural Invasion

PERRY SAID TRYING TO FORM ANTI-IRAN, ANTI-IRAQ AXIS

A 400-word report by Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 6 says U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's current tour of the Gulf region is amed at promoting a "U.S. containment strategy" against Iraq and Iran and establishing a joint "U.S.-Arab Axis" against future threats from Iran and Iraq. The axis would also coordinate with NATO on confronting "Islamist movements" in the region.

NUCLEAR CHIEF OPPOSES NPT'S INDEFINITE EXTENSION

A 235-word report by Adil al-Bahnasawi on pages 1 and 6 quotes Dr. Hafiz Hijii, chairman of the Nuclear Stations Authority, as saying that an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] poses a "threat" to Egypt, which has not yet even implemented a peaceful nuclear program to generate electricity.

SECRET DETENTION CAMP REPORTED IN AL-MINYA

A 300-word report on pages 1 and 6 claims that the security authorities have set up a "secret" detention camp in a deserted village in al-Minya where up to 700 detainees are being held.

PROTESTS REPORTED OVER ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN CAIRO FAIR

A 350-word report on pages 1 and 6 says ordinary Egyptians are furious over Israeli participation in the Cairo International Fair. The report describes the government's decision to allow Israel to participate in the fair as a move "toward normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy."

CHIEF EDITOR ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF BACKING DOWN ON NPT

In a 3,000-word article on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn takes the government to task for purportedly backing down on the NPT renewal issue. He says: "It has been expected that the government would back down on the NPT issue because it has insisted on limiting the conflict to diplomatic channels and the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

media. The rulers have had, and still have, a chance for a national victory, but they show every day that they are too weak to resist the U.S. and Israeli pressures." Husayn adds: "Egypt's signing of the extension of the NPT was made contingent on Israel's signing, but now the regime has retreated, saying it would be satisfied with an Israeli pledge that it will sign the treaty at a later date."

Apparently addressing Egyptian officials, Husayn says: "Gentlemen, the issue is not whether you will sign it or not; the issue is whether you will wake up to the magnitude of the challenges Israel poses to Egypt and the Arab region and whether you will again understand the real nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, or whether you will continue to be imbecilic and weep about peace. Your craving for peace exceeds your desire for national pride and dignity and the instinct for survival, which protects all living organisms from committing suicide or from dying by mistake through ignorance of the laws of nature."

Husayn argues that if the Egyptian Government had taken a "balanced stand" during the Gulf crisis, Iraq's nuclear program would not have been destroyed. He goes on to warn against "the Egyptian ruler's involvement" in probable strikes against Iran's nuclear program, because that would serve to perpetuate Israel's "monopoly" of nuclear weapons in the region. He adds: "This is not a legal issue. It is not one of international treaties. It is an issue of life and death for the Egyptian people. Whoever is not devoted to the lives of his people or not trusted by them does not deserve to remain in the seat of power for one day."

Enumerating the dangers surrounding Egypt, Husayn says: "Of course, we would welcome a world without nuclear weapons. Nor do we seek to terrorize the world and control it with weapons of mass destruction. However, motivated at least by the instinct for survival, we cannot remain stupid and unarmed in a world armed to the teeth." He says that Israel has enough nuclear weapons to destroy all the Egyptian towns from Alexandria to Aswan, as well as the whole Arab region. Israel's nuclear stockpile in the Negev Desert is only 240 km from Cairo. He concludes by saying that Israeli missiles can reach Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Europe, Morocco, "(and after a few years even the United States!!)."

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CALLS FOR REFERENDUM ON NPT

In a 2,000 article on page 4, Dr. al-Shafi'i Muhammad Bashir, a law professor at al-Mansurah University, maintains that President Husni Mubarak has backed down on his stand on the NPT. He says that at first President Mubarak adopted a "great and principled" stand when he said that Egypt would not sign the NPT unless Israel signs it too. He stuck to his stand until he visited Japan and "shocked us" with his 14 March statement in which he said: "Regarding Israel's joining of the NPT, I do not say that it must join tomorrow or next year but perhaps after several years." Bashir asks why the president is "extremely flexible" with Israel and the United States but "very firm" in rejecting the citizens' call for justice, fairness, and real democracy? "Is it because you are afraid of them and not afraid of us?" he asks. Bashir says: "Israel has a plan to drop atomic bombs on the Aswan Dam to destroy it and submerge all of Egypt." He asks Mubarak: "What have you done, O president of Egypt? What will your successor do, besides collect the corpses of our sons and grandsons and to weep over the ruins, just as the Japanese wept over the ruins of Nagazaki and Heroshima in August 1945?" He goes on to say: "Mr. President, you have no right to retreat on your stand on not extending the NPT until Israel signs it." Bashir ends by rhetorically telling Mubarak that this is a "grave mistake" and a "serious predicament" from which there is no escape other than a "public referendum" so that "you will face up to the Americans and Israelis and acquit yourself well before God, history, the people, and the Arab and Islamic nations."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ARAB LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY

An 800-word article by Muslim Brotherhood official Mustafa Mashhur on page 5 is devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Arab League. After reviewing the successes and failures of the Arab League, he submits a number of proposals in the name of the Muslim Brotherhood for revitalizing the Arab League. He says the primary aim must be the promotion of "Arab unity" as a first step toward "Islamic unity." Mashhur proposes the removal of customs barriers among Arab states, the formation of joint Arab companies and projects, and the creation of an Arab common market. He also proposes cultural, legislative, and military cooperation among the Arab states. He calls on the Arab states to uphold the principles of pride, strength, jihad, and love of martyrdom and to stop divesting the education curricula of "Islamic and anti-Jewish" teachings. He calls for the establishment an Arab court of justice to resolve disputes among the Arab states, especially between Egypt and Sudan. He says the Arab League must encourage the Arab states to strengthen their ties with other Islamic states. He says we must take from the Western civilization what is beneficial and avoid what is harmful. He warns against attempts to marginalize the Arab League and to replace it with a Middle East league in which Israel would be a member. Mashhur concludes by saying the Arab states must insist that Israel dismantle and destroy all its nuclear weapons.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI WARNS AGAINST WESTERN CULTURAL INVASION

In a 400-word column entitled "This Is Our Religion," on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says forgetting God is in the nature of modern civilization and the crux of the destructive materialism that prevails in the world. He adds that the church organizations in Europe and the United States believe religion is a "big illusion." He warns against the Western "cultural invasion which is knocking loudly on our doors." He says the television

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

satellite channels "titillate" the instincts of the youths and the newspapers and magazines "beautify" falsehood. He regrets there is no strong opposition to this invasion. Al-Ghazali ends by calling on Muslim youths to adhere to their religion and heritage.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th: Israel Proposes Statehood for Gaza

TA2803095395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Eli Bohadana and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of planning, said yesterday that Israel had proposed that the PA establish an independent state in the Gaza Strip after all the Israeli Jews are evacuated from it, provided the Palestinians waive military control in the West Bank. Sha'th made these remarks in a conversation with a Palestinian correspondent.

Sources at the prime minister's bureau and the Foreign Ministry last night denied that any "official" proposal concerning the establishment of a state in Gaza in return for a surrender of military control in the West Bank had been relayed to the Palestinians. In view of the large number of officials who maintain contacts with the Palestinian leadership, however, all the denying parties took pains to add that "someone may have discussed something like that with them, but not officially."

Sees 'State' Within 5 Years

TA2803143495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Mar 95 pp 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, WAFA—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has stressed that a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital will be established within five years. In an open meeting yesterday morning with al-Azhar University students in Gaza, Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinian state will be democratic, with political pluralism, and will enjoy a developed economy.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the task is difficult and requires the cohesion of all efforts. We also need constructive self-criticism, especially by the educated student sector. Moreover, Dr. Sha'th emphasized the need for national unity in order to confront the dangers and obstacles on the way toward building an independent Palestinian state.

Dr. Sha'th criticized Israeli practices of placing obstacles to the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles, which relates to redeployment and the holding of legislative elections. He also called on the Palestinian opposition to participate actively and responsibly in the authority's organs.

PA Rejects Phased Withdrawal From Town Centers

TA2903090195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians will not agree to an Israeli plan to pull out of Janin and Nabulus first, Palestinian Authority [PA] officials said this morning. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, the PA's official in charge of transportation, told IDF Radio that according to the plan presented by Israel, the withdrawal is supposed to start on 1 June. Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports:

[Begin recording] The PA's negotiating team has been handed a detailed Israeli proposal for an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the territories, said Ahmad in reaction to last night's Channel 2 report, which had said that there are detailed plans for the relocation of IDF headquarters from city centers in the territories.

I have not yet seen the specifics of the plan, Ahmad said, but I have heard that a plan containing timetables and place names has been presented whereby the withdrawal will start on 1 June.

The idea of Janin first has been raised in one form or another in recent months, but so far no progress has been reported on the issue. On the contrary, the Palestinians have been going to great lengths to present a firm position of either all or nothing.

The PA will not accept a withdrawal from one or two areas, Ahmad said, but only a comprehensive plan containing a timetable for a withdrawal from Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, and Ramallah.

In the Palestinian street, as well as in the PA's offices, it is estimated that on 1 June the IDF headquarters will remain where they are. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh Stresses Need for Implementation

TA2803115795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, one of the leaders of the PLO, said no progress has been made in the political process; on the contrary, it is in the midst of a deep crisis and will quickly collapse unless all aspects of the agreement are implemented. The crisis is due to the closure, ongoing settlement, and Israel's refusal to discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the city centers in the territories, 'Abd-Rabbuh told our correspondent Dani Zaqen.

Al-Surani Warns: PLO Cannot Continue 'Peace Lie'

MM2803141695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Surani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Cannot Continue With the 'Peace Lie'"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, has stressed that unless the United States and Europe act to save the now deadlocked peace process, the PLO will not be able to continue with the "peace lie" while it sees Palestinian territory diminishing, Israeli settlements expanding and growing day after day, and Jerusalem Judaized more and more.

Al-Surani added that the PLO will be compelled to stop the negotiations with Israel if there is no movement in the situation and if Israel is not committed to the full and timely implementation of what was agreed upon. Executive Committee Member al-Surani has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the position of the U.S. Administration, which has sponsored the Middle East peace process, was no longer understandable. It works for peace and at the same time gives Israel an additional $10 billion to bring in more settlers and build more settlements, and it has promised Israel that it would maintain its qualitative military superiority over all the Arab states, and said nothing about Israel's nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

He said that, at its recent meeting in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee decided to launch an extensive diplomatic campaign to persuade the United States, the European states, and the Arab states concerned, especially Egypt which signed the Cairo agreement, to seek to rectify the course of the peace process which is now stumbling because of Israel's refusal to honor the Declaration of Principles and the subsequent agreements it signed.

Al-Surani also criticized the position of the donor states which have not fulfilled their promises of helping the Palestinian people meet the severe social and economic challenges resulting from 27 years of Israeli occupation.

He said that the Palestinians, who were without identity and without a homeland for 50 years, are now in need of stability, in the interest of the region's stability. He added that Israeli security should be an integral part of the region's stability and not, as Yitzhaq Rabin claims, take precedence over Palestinian security. Al-Surani pointed out that although he continues to oppose the Oslo agreement and to refuse to participate in the Palestinian Authority, he is still committed to the PLO Executive Committee's decisions related to the peace process with Israel. Commenting on the Executive Committee's decision to continue the negotiations, he said: "Like the Oslo decision, that decision was not a unanimous decision but when the committee makes a decision that decision becomes binding on everyone and the minority has to go along with the view of the majority."

It should be noted here that Jamal al-Surani was one of the Executive Committee members who supported continuation of the negotiations with Israel, thus going against the other view held by Faruq Qaddumi, calling for the immediate suspension of the negotiations with Israel.

Asked what he thought of the position of some of his Executive Committee colleagues on the need to hold the committee's meetings in Tunis, which is considered to be the PLO's political headquarters, he replied: "That is not true. The Executive Committee has a right to hold its meetings anywhere, not necessarily in Tunis." He strongly denied that the chairman or any member of the Executive Committee has any veto rights, because "we are a democratic institution."

Qaddumi Begins Australia Visit To Solicit Aid

JN2803111195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar p 17

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In implementation of the decisions made by the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee, which convened recently in Tunisia, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political department and member of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday started a visit to Australia.

Palestinian sources in Amman close to Faruq Qaddumi have told AL-RA'Y that Qaddumi's visit to Australia, which will last for several days, is part of the Executive Committee's plan to call on a number of countries to extend aid to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Qaddumi expects that he will sign an agreement between the PLO and the Australian Government. Earlier this year an agreement was signed between the PLO and the European Union under which the latter will extend a $300-million loan to the Palestinian Authority [PA] with a 4-percent interest rate and a five-year grace period. Qaddumi is making this visit after the donor nations have shown tardiness in fulfilling their obligations to the PA in accordance with the Oslo-Cairo accord and after the PA assumed power in Gaza and Jericho in June [1994]. [passage omitted]

Palestinian diplomatic sources have told AL-RA'Y that the PLO has maintained its headquarters in Australia despite the fact that it cut the number of its embassies and offices in many European, Asian, and African states for strictly financial reasons following the freezing of aid from the oil countries in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

'Arafat To Meet Russia's Kozyrev in Gaza 1 Apr

JN2803092395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will receive Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the Presidential Office in Gaza on Saturday [1 April]. Voice of Palestine sources said that the Middle East peace process will top the agenda of the talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and the head of Russian diplomacy.

Kozyrev will also visit Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel within a tour of the Middle East which will begin on Friday.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Spy' for Israel Reportedly To Be Released

NC2803143895 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 27 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Adnan Yasin, former deputy Palestinian ambassador to Tunis who spied for Israel, was transferred from Tunis to Cairo on 20 February 1995. Yasin was also responsible for receiving, seeing off, and arranging the visits of elements, leading figures, and guests travelling to Tunis to join their organizations or meet with PLO leaders. He was flown aboard a Tunisian airliner in the company of a military security official from the PLO. His departure from Tunis is the first step toward his release, at Israel's request, at a time when the self-rule authority continues to drag more Palestinian nationalists to Gaza's central prison. In addition, more than 6,000 detainees are still locked up in the Zionist occupation's prisons.

Agent 'Adnan Yasin admitted a year ago of having engaged in dangerous espionage activity for Israel. He provided Israel with important security information that cost the lives of several Palestinians and their leaders in the West Bank, Gaza, Tunisia, and the Diaspora, which led to the detention of scores of strugglers.

Al-Shak'ah Said Prevented From Leaving for Amman

JN2803094295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 20

[Report by Kamal Zakarnah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Engineer Bassam al-Shak'ah, former Nabulus mayor who was dismissed by the occupation authorities, has said that he was prevented from leaving the occupied territory on Friday and was subjected to a provocative body search while trying to leave for Jordan. [passage omitted]

Asked about the reason for his travel abroad, al-Shak'ah said: I received an invitation to attend an Arab popular conference in Sudan. I also wanted to visit relatives and friends in Amman, which I usually visit every so often. [passage omitted]

Official: Distribution of Passports in 'Next 2 Days'

JN2803154995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Sa'id al-Tamimi, under secretary of the Interior Ministry of the [Palestinian] National Authority, said today that the distribution of passports to Palestinians will begin in the next two days.

In a press statement, he added that 5,000 pilgrims and 300 people from the accompanying teams, among others, will be the first to benefit from this passport.

Regarding international recognition of the Palestinian passport, al-Tamimi said there is no problem with the neighboring states in this regard. He said the Arab League Ministerial Council will discuss this issue at its first meeting.

Israel's Planned Jerusalem Celebration Condemned

JN2803160695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Information Ministry has condemned an Israeli decision to hold a celebration under the slogan "Jerusalem 3000," sponsored by the Israeli Government and the municipality of Jerusalem this September.

A statement issued by the Ministry today said that this celebration encroaches on Jerusalem's landmarks and identity and hurts the feelings of millions of Muslims and Christians throughout the world.

The statement pointed out that Israel does not have the right to consider itself the heir to mankind's heritage and accumulated inventions. The EU and the Vatican have refused to participate in this celebration.

The statement also appealed to the international community to work for preventing Israel from holding such celebrations, especially since this celebration is a unilateral one and the Palestinian leadership was not consulted about it. This matter conflicts with the bases on which the peace process was launched. It also conflicts with the international resolutions that consider Jerusalem as part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Editorial Lauds Gore Visit to Jericho

TA2803184895 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 25 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Our Message to the United States Is Clear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We can only appreciate the U.S. position, which was translated yesterday into the meeting between the brother president and U.S. Vice President Al Gore on the first liberated Palestinian land and in the oldest town and civilization—in Jericho—as the brother president said. That position was also translated into the signing of an economic agreement which exempts Palestinian exports into the United States from custom duties.

But while appreciating this U.S. position we believe that the United States should shoulder its full responsibility by completely fulfilling its role in bringing about a speedy implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and the withdrawal of the occupation forces from our towns, villages, and refugee camps. It should do so by pressuring Israel to put a final end to the policy of procrastination that it has relentlessly pursued over the past few months. This policy has prevented the DOP's full implementation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore two sensitive issues about which we believe the United States must not remain silent. These are the issue of settlement activity, the gravity of which the United States realized at an early stage of the peace process by linking the granting of loans to Israel to a halt of settlement activity in the Palestinian territories. Regretfully, however, the United States backed down from its position despite the fact that settlement activity, in all its forms, has not stopped up to this day.

The other issue, which perhaps is no less grave than settlement activity, is that of Jerusalem. This issue represents the first and last test of the peace process reaching its conclusion by the establishment of political stability in the entire region. We believe that the United States must shoulder its full responsibility on this issue not only because it is the architect of the political process, but because it is the superpower that has assumed the task of implementing international laws and resolutions. Therefore, it is responsible for ending Tel Aviv's dangerous Judaization policy on Palestinian land, history, vestiges, and presence in Jerusalem.

Our call to the United States to shoulder its responsibility emanates from two legal bases. The first one is international laws and resolutions, the second is the DOP, which clearly stipulates that no changes can be introduced in postponed issues that might affect the talks on a final settlement. According to these two bases, Israeli policy on settlement activity and Jerusalem represents a great danger to the entire political process that is even greater than the danger of so-called violence. The United States must put an end to this danger while at the same time shouldering its responsibility in implementing the DOP.

Therefore, we say that our message to the United States is very clear and is based on international laws, agreements, and resolutions.

PFLP, DFLP Said To Seek Return to Territories

TA2803111995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) want to return to the territories, according to a senior Western diplomat based in Damascus.

They hope to be a factor in shaping the Palestinian political process.

A senior Israeli official said Israel has received signals that both factions are interested in returning, but says there has been no formal request.

Two months ago, it was reported that DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah wants to return to the territories, but the Damascus based diplomat said his entire faction wants to return, as does the PFLP, fueling speculation that this includes its leader, George Habash. When asked specifically about Habash, the diplomat refused to comment.

It remains unclear if the PFLP and DFLP would actually participate in Palestinian Authority elections or would seek to lead a boycott of the balloting.

Since both factions are widely considered to be on the wane, there is a general belief that even if they chose to boycott the election, they would be more effective in staging their opposition to the peace process from within the territories than from Damascus.

Their eagerness to leave Syria may be matched by Syria's willingness to get rid of them, as they could be an obstacle in its desire to get off the State Department's terrorism list.

Whether Israel would enable PFLP and DFLP members to return to the territories remains unclear. Israeli officials have not disqualified their return, but say privately there would be absolutely nothing to consider unless they first disavow terror.

However, neither wants to be seen as asking Israel for terms for their return, and therefore their appeal is considered so diplomatically sensitive that a third-party would likely try to broker the deal.

Hamas: Opposition Factions Reactivate Alliance

MM2803102195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "In a Statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT After His Return From Damascus, Ghawshah Said: Hamas and 10 Factions Agreed To Reactivate Alliance Against Palestinian-Israeli Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas held important talks this week in Damascus with the Syrian leadership and the Palestinian Alliance Forces opposed to the Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. That coincides with the revival of the Syrian-Israeli negotiation track and the appearance of signs of relaxation on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas official spokesman and member of the delegation which visited Damascus, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the 10 Palestinian factions agreed to reactivate the alliance opposed to the Oslo and Cairo agreement and also agreed to hold regular meetings and to seek to reactivate the intifadah in the occupied territories and support the popular forces there to help them meet the challenges of the Palestinian Authority in the occupied territories, especially the "indiscriminate" detentions and suppression of public liberties. Ghawshah added that the Palestinian forces condemned the resolutions passed by Fatah's Central

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Committee and the PLO Executive Committee on the resumption of negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

Ghawshah spoke of Hamas' endeavor to initiate dialogues with all the Arab states with the aim of strengthening the resistance against occupation.

The delegation visited Damascus two days ago. It was led by Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of Hamas' Political Bureau, and included Ghawshah and Abu-Mustafa Muhammad, the movement's representative in Damascus. It met with Syrian Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Mashariqah as well as Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

A meeting was also held with Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Palestinian Salvation Front and former Palestine National Council speaker. These meetings came after Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat canceled a meeting which was scheduled to take place between Hamas and Fatah Central Committee members who are opposed to the Oslo agreement, led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department.

Hamas Submits Demands to Palestinian Authority

MM2903134295 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Mar-1 Apr 95 p 19

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Makes It Conditional That All Its Prisoners Be Released Before It Can Participate in Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo have revealed the existence of continued contacts and meetings held since the beginning of March, namely since the Fatah Executive Committee's [as published] meeting in Cairo between President Yasir 'Arafat's aides and a number of Hamas leaders from the self-rule area and the West Bank. The aim is to resolve the remaining differences and to agree on a new formula to hold a direct dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Palestinian movements opposed to the Oslo accord, pending a call to convene a national conference grouping all the various factions.

The Palestinian sources said in statements to AL-MAJALLAH that the Palestinian delegation participating in the contacts and meetings with Hamas leaders comprises advisor Ahmad al-Tibi; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to 'Arafat; Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA local government minister; and some Palestinians from the occupied territories. While Hamas's delegation comprises Kamal Salim, Hamas representative in Nabulus; 'Imad al-Faluji, its representative in Gaza; and Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, its representative in Jericho. The sources added that the Hamas delegation conveyed the movement's demands to the PA in return for Hamas's pledge to halt violence against security men and the PA in the self-rule area. The list includes the demand for the PA to speedily release all prisoners held in self-rule area jails and to refrain from pursuing Hamas elements and leaders in Gaza and Jericho. And also to immediately release.Shaykh Salah al-Safadi, imam of a Gaza mosque. He was arrested on the morning of 'Id al-Fitr, immediately after he criticized the PA for its practices in the self-rule areas. Hamas also demanded that the PA exert great pressure on the Israeli Government to release the movement's leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Driver Shot Dead After Collision With Israeli Vehicle

TA2903132595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A local truck driver was killed and four policemen and border policemen traveling in a jeep were wounded in a vehicle collision in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent has learned that following the collision, the Palestinian driver got out of his vehicle armed with a revolver, and the occupants of the jeep shot him dead.

In another incident in the area, shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol on the Gaza bypass road, causing casualties among the members of the patrol.

2 Israelis, 1 Arab Killed in Gaza Attack

TA2903151895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli policeman and a border policeman were killed in an attack near the Qatif Bloc in the Gaza Strip today. An Arab truck driver who shot at them with his revolver was also killed.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the Gaza truck stopped opposite the Border Police jeep. The driver got out of the truck and began to fire at the policemen, who fired back and killed him. They apparently shot while their vehicle was moving, and the jeep crashed into the parked truck. The four occupants of the jeep were seriously wounded and taken by helicopter to hospital, where two of them later died.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Dembri: Situation 'Improving Every Day'

MM2803120595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Husayn] Why did former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella turn down President Zeroual's call for the resumption of dialogue on the presidential elections? Do you see any justification for that stance?

[Dembri] First of all, it [Zeroual's call] confirms the Algerian Government's genuine belief in the need to establish the rule of dialogue with all and without exception. As regards the rejection of dialogue by such figures, that is nothing new as far as we are concerned and does not mean that we would end the dialogue. We will proceed with our democratic program. It seems to us that whoever rejects dialogue knows that the circumstances do not favor him in the eyes of Algerian public opinion, and may have other reasons of his own.

[Abu-Husayn] Why does the Algerian Government not invite the opposition which held meetings in Rome, London, and other European states to a dialogue in Algeria?

[Dembri] The Algerian Government has been continually calling for that all the time, but anyone who wishes to internationalize the crisis and to transfer the internal discussions abroad as a way of exerting pressure would be opposed by the Algerian people themselves. There have been demonstrations condemning these external moves on the grounds that it is time for the emergence of a pluralist system for the protection of the nation and the homeland. But we will never despair. We have the capabilities to overcome all the current difficulties, which could never be worse than past problems in the country.

[Abu-Husayn] Passing judgment on the elections the authorities are calling for, Ben Bella said that they are rigged from the start and that their aim is to keep the current regime in power. What is your answer to that?

[Dembri] We are calling for elections so that everyone will participate in them. In Algeria we have 73 parties, all politically present in the institutions of the transitional period and known to be active. So there is no need for prior accusations and impossible conditions.

[Abu-Husayn] How could presidential elections be held in the present situation and given the tension prevailing in the country?

[Dembri] The Algerian Government will seek to promote a suitable climate for holding the elections. I can point out here that the situation is improving every day. The new phenomenon at present is that the activities of the armed groups have now shifted to mounting minor terrorist operations, but despite that, we take precautions against all possibilities. We promise, however, that the situation will improve enough in the near future to allow the elections to be held in an acceptable atmosphere. Furthermore, the real opposition will become clear after the elections. Matters are confused at present, particularly as some parties are setting conditions for dialogue, in that they want to join the government.

[Abu-Husayn] Why does the government not resume the dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria?

[Dembri] There are numerous proposals around. The truth must be known. We welcome dialogue in the context of Algeria's constitution and its Arab and Islamic identity, and democratic dialogue. The 1 November principles are still there. They provide for the defense of what is taking place in the country first.

[Abu-Husayn] Why should dialogue not start with everyone's participation and without preconditions?

[Dembri] The Algerian Government welcomes that unconditionally, but the opposition is setting unacceptable conditions contrary to the democratic process which must be followed in the dialogue and in the elections, and the laws for that are known, namely that there should be clear programs defining future phases. We would never accept conditions from the other side speaking about power sharing in advance.

[Abu-Husayn] There have been reports implicating some European states in smuggling arms to your country for the escalation of violence and terrorism. What has the Algerian Government done about that?

[Dembri] It is known worldwide that there are networks for supplying arms to whoever pays the price. That is what we talked about at the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca. A resolution was passed concerning the prevention of extremism and arms smuggling. We also say that terrorism is no longer confined to Algeria. It is a widespread phenomenon on which an Arab and Islamic stand must be taken.

[Abu-Husayn] The media have for two days been carrying reports about a travel ban imposed on Abdelhamid Mehri. What are the causes of and the truth about that measure?

[Dembri] Abdelhamid Mehri is a respected and well-known figure in the national movement. He has not been prevented from traveling, as claimed by the media, nor from delivering his lecture. The Algerian Constitution guarantees every citizen's right to speak anywhere and to leave the country at any time unconditionally. What is happening is that rumors are spread from time to time to implicate Algeria in some conduct alien to it.

[Abu-Husayn] Has Algeria's current situation isolated it at Arab level, as far as normalization of relations is concerned?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Dembri] That is not true. I am going to visit the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. I visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia last year and am today inviting Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to visit Algeria, and we would welcome him any time his country's circumstances allow him to visit our country, particularly as relations with the Kingdom are extremely good.

Interior Minister on Causes of 'Conspiracy'

LD2403144395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Speech by Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif in Skikda on 23 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Colonel [as heard], brothers and sisters. To begin with, it pleases me to convey to you, with pride, the greetings of the head of state and the prime minister. [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters, I am proud to be one of the many Algerian sons who have spent their youth and life in the service of this beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

Who says that in Algeria today we need someone to teach us Islam? For centuries, successive generations have affirmed their belonging to this true religion by taking part in the spreading of teaching and science, and the observance of the book of God and the traditions of his prophet.

Do we need to wear special clothes to prove that we are Muslims, and since when has clothing become proof of the fear of God, faith in God, adherence to His teachings and action in accordance with His own way. [passage omitted]

Islam has never been a matter of appearances and wearing clothes. It is a creed and a range of values, a methodology. a civilized behavior decreed by God to all mankind. Let us go back to the book of God and the traditions of His prophet and shun innovations, errors, and mistakes, and let us return to the right path from which some people have deviated under the influence of tendentious, rancorous, and bankrupt elements. [passage omitted]

These are facts which cannot be denied, nor can one run away from them. Therefore, nothing remains for us except to work and find the ways and means that can unite us around this matter.

The Amazight issue is an element that brings us together and it must never lead to division and separation. The head of state has said this and a national commission was set up headed by the prime minister to enable us find a final way out of the hollow and Byzantine debates that are used by some as a political tool to attain objectives which are very far removed from the supreme national interests.

Wisdom and foresight remain two features that all of us must display in this field, and this is due to the difficult circumstances that our country is experiencing and the dangers that surround our country, and the plots that are hatched around it.

During the '70's, it became quite clear that there has been a need to correct the mistakes that have been made in the economic, social, and cultural fields. However, it has been difficult for those who made the mistakes to mend their mistakes after they insisted that they were not at fault at all.

Then came the turn of the learned scholars. They were bent on restructuring our industry. They added more problems to those that bedeviled our economic institutions. Suddenly, the price of oil dropped, and that was like a real earthquake. The bitter truth that we intentionally had ignored for two decades came to the surface .

We questioned the benefit of the profits which used to be distributed in our factories, even though they were bankrupt. Our social conditions became more complex and our financial returns dropped and the consequences of the population explosion emerged in all fields.

The events of October 1988 were also like an earthquake to the authority which existed at that time. It was a powerful cry against it. The crisis from which our country is suffering today is nothing except a result of the gradual deterioration of the then-ruling regime and its utter failure to run the affairs of the nation, which were plagued by indifference, politicking, minimizing the responsibilities, not to mention nepotism, graft, bureaucracy, and other social diseases which broke the back of our society and dragged it to the lowest level.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the bankruptcy of a centrally planned economic system killed the citizen's trust in the state and its institutions, and this was coupled with deep popular dissatisfaction brought about by the citizens' daily suffering, their marginalization and lack of interest in their aspirations. This popular dissatisfaction created political and social trends which rejected the authority in place at the time, which in turn tried in vain to recover lost ground.

Thus, in less than four months, Algeria was transformed from a one-party state to a pluralist state. The so-called absolute democracy, which was seen as a miracle in comparison with the centuries that Western countries needed to realize democracy, was created. Therefore, when our people were asking for social justice and a better life, it was offered a false democracy. And the real aim behind such a move was to implement the policy of divide and rule, to the detriment of Algeria; in other words, to the detriment of its stability and development; and maneuvers and manipulations came into being at a time when the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front-FIS] was exploiting the dissatisfaction of some youth sections, using the teaching of our true religion for political ends by taking advantage of our people's commitment to prophet Muhammad's message.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Thousands staged tumultuous demonstrations sowing anarchy in the heart of the country and this led to acts of sabotage, such as illegal strikes, roadblocks, and civil disobedience. The Algerian citizen stood in amazement at the appearance of men wearing Afghani dress and alien people who demanded that he obey the Shari'ah of God, even though the Islam of this citizen is deep-rooted and he is loyal and truthful.

Using this method they controlled well over 800 municipalities, which were turned into monopolies and places which served narrow partisan interests. As I said, anarchy prevailed in the country with the collusion of a regime whose preoccupation was to stay in power whatever it took to achieve it. It was a regime that could not learn from the lessons and events which resulted from the municipal and provincial elections and their dire consequences, which almost destroyed national unity. At the same time, those who decided to stay in power forever searched for the tricks which could realize their objectives. Among their tricks was to institute an administrative partition to suite their aims and wishes. Thus they perpetuated the principles of free nominations.

As for the dissolved party, it resorted to an anarchic strike, which was aimed at paralyzing the country. This almost happened had it not been for the astuteness of the dynamic national forces. Once again, the regime at that time did not draw the conclusions and lessons from this tempest. It began to prepare for legislative elections, which it described as free and honest. Some people wanted to use them as a means to achieve their lunatic objectives. At that time, the dissolved party was regaining its strength and it pushed hordes to military mutiny.

The inevitable results came forth by the false victory of this party, which obtained 3 million votes from 13 million registered voters. Some leaders of this current declared their intention to take the country back to the tribal age and the crooked groups—the age of darkness and ignorance. Once again, the signs of the disaster emerged in the collapse of national unity. Once again, the dynamic national forces intervened to save the homeland from the danger of explosion. The credit in this goes chiefly to our National People's army, the descendant of the National Liberation Army.

Brothers and sisters, the turn of events and the emergence of terrorism prove beyond any doubt that those who have used Islam to achieve their own objectives had planned and prepared a long-term conspiracy which was hatched against the Algerian people from within the country and from abroad. Thus, groups of criminals, traitors, and mercenaries embarked on sowing fear and killing innocent people in the most abominable ways. Indeed, they have slit the throats of women and men and even children, and their criminal hands have not spared any section of society. They have programmed the killing of all civil servants and foreigners with an unprecedented savagery.

Brothers and sisters, I would like to give a serious and painful piece of news. The criminals and the terrorists want to destroy everything linked to Algeria's past and history. Do you remember Ben Boulaid, the hero who was behind some of the most glorious episodes of our eternal revolution? I have just received, with deep sorrow and grief, news of the assassination of one of Mostefa Ben Boulaid's sons, who is a symbol, just like his father was. The hands of Harkis [Algerian collaborators during the war of liberation] and criminals wanted to harm him and desecrate with this base act one of the foundations of our memories and one of the symbols of Algeria's history. This shows clearly the objectives of the nation's enemies, who will be defeated thanks to our determination and the will of our people.

As I have already said, groups of criminals, traitors, and mercenaries have embarked on sowing fear and killing innocent people in the most abominable ways. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the blind terrorism is attempting to wreck the country's economy by carrying out a scorched earth policy, destroying economic, educational, and cultural establishments, and smashing equipment and installations with a view to destroying the means of life of an entire people. The casualties are estimated at about 15,000 dead and 8,000 wounded; 5,000 pieces of equipment destroyed, and 1,000 administrative institutions ransacked together with the buildings of 400 municipal councils and administrative districts, in addition to over 100 economic units and more than 600 educational establishments.

In short, the financial cost of the material damage has been estimated at about 100 billion dinars, corresponding to $2 billion; this amount equals the cost of building 400,000 council homes with all the utilities.

Ladies and gentlemen: do these acts serve Islam, to which their perpetrators claim to belong? Is this savagery committed by people in whom we detect any humanity? Can the mind understand that these ignorant and deviant people have the interests of the Algerian people at heart? Does the desire to reach power presuppose the destruction of a country and the killing of people? Of course not, because it is obvious that the conspiracy aims at destroying Algeria once and for all as a state, a nation, and a civilized entity. This naturally only serves foreign interests and is part of an orchestrated plan dictated by geo-strategic calculations made in centers in the world which are known to every one.

Brothers and sisters, The president of state called for presidential elections in the historic speech he made on the eve of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the start of the eternal 1 November Revolution. Thus, the people were given back the chance to have a say. The professional politicians often used the pretext of allowing the people to have a say and they often called for a resumption of the electoral process. Well, we have now resumed it with the knowledge that the election process will take place in total impartiality and absolute

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

transparency. So why are those who hide behind democracy dodging the possibility to impose the means of entrenching that democracy? Why did they believe or pretend to believe that it is necessary to leave the country to hold conferences and meetings under foreign spotlights in order to write documents which contain demands that have already been met once the need to return to the people's will was announced?

Are they afraid of the rules of the game? The head of state invited them to participate in drawing up the bases within the framework of a national and honest dialogue in which all the legal parties would take part. Is not this a true democracy? We are sure that the Algerian people will emerge out of the crisis and will pronounce their verdict quite loftily, with all freedom and sovereignty. Have not the doubters seen that the people abhor violence and categorically reject it? This has been confirmed by the huge demonstrations which have been staged in all parts of the homeland. They denounced and condemned the scandal and the farce of Sant Egilio.

Have not these people seen that the Algerian people reject terrorism and sabotage, and it is they who never condemned it? Do the enemies of this proud people believe that it will submit out of fear when it was this people who proved its courage, valor, and greatness for centuries? Do they think that committing the most abominable crimes and massacres which took the lives of scores of defenseless citizens in Amirouche Boulevard in the capital Algiers would destroy its morale and lead to the collapse and fall of the state? Once again, they were proven wrong. They were actually proven badly wrong.

They did not foresee the awareness of the people of this country and their deep attachment to their unity. They have been known to be excellent at misinterpretation. The time has come to drop all this. The head of state has renewed his call to continue the dialogue, whose doors will never be closed.

We all have to put Algeria above all considerations. The talk should be about what brings us together. Let us then all contribute without hesitation toward realizing national reconciliation. The criminals are bent on letting Algerians kill their fellow Algerians and destroy the installations of their country and people.

Where has the spirit of wholesale suicide come from? This one wants to be more Muslim than another by imposing his opinion by steel, fire, and the knife while forgetting that Islam renounced these methods and behavior, especially against Muslims. And here is one who wants to be more democratic than the other, and he rejects the opinion of others. And that one tries to employ our national personality and its unique language and contemporary characteristics while he is unaware that he has been treading a dead-end road.

Everyone should be concerned with the country's future, ladies and gentlemen; self-deception has led a number of people to make successive and very serious statements abroad. They have demanded that foreigners meddle in our internal affairs, thus giving an opportunity to those who have become legendary in their rancor against the Algerian people were looking for.

Has anyone foreseen the day when Algeria would be facing such serious dangers, when a number of its sons would try to destroy it? Nonetheless, I do believe and am wholly convinced that we can resolve our problems ourselves and on our own. Moreover, such conflicts and such illogical internecine wars must never harm our national integrity.

It would have been rather naive to believe that Algeria's stability and territorial integrity would make all foreign powers happy—and I mean here that Algeria's independence has made many people sick. Therefore, let us arm ourselves with wisdom and farsightedness when we try to resolve our problems. Let us not be like those who destroy their own homes with their own hands.

Algeria is home for all Algerians; no Algerian should be excluded save those who, through their own volition, have elected to exclude themselves. Is it rational at all that we should not be able to find common ground which might safeguard the precious achievements of the Algerian people—achievements secured in order to guarantee the future of its children in a world which has shown no compassion toward the weak and the hesitant? And we should all remember that they will have no other country but Algeria.

I have come to Skikda to listen and to inform. Is it possible that we remain on the periphery of a world movement which is approaching the third millennium, a millennium full of science and developed technology? Is it wise to retire, destroy our homes, and ruin our capabilities and all elements of advancement and progress in an era where coalition and grouping prevail? No.

Brothers and Sisters, I have come to Skikda Province to look into the implementation of the directives we gave which aim at putting the management at the service of the citizen and extracting all forms of bureaucracy. I have come to listen and to inform. I have come for a dialogue and consultation with you. I am one of those people who firmly believes that Algeria is an idea, a spirit, a body, and a legend. I am certain that the imposed crisis our people are experiencing will definitely vanish like the passing clouds, and joy will prevail again in our villages, towns, planes, rural areas, and mountains. [passage omitted]

Addresses 'Misled' Youths

LD2603173495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Interior Ministry addressed today another call to the misled youths inviting them once more to benefit from the law which included mercy procedures and pardon measures, approved recently by the Transitional National Council.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The statement called on the youths to make use of this valuable opportunity through hurrying to the nearest headquarters of the judicial, civil, or military administrative authorities where they would find all protection guarantees. They could bring one of their relatives, or their lawyer, to be assured of their safety. [passage omitted]

Ben Bella Rejects Zeroual Call for Meetings

MM2703081195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Ben Bella Rejects Zeroual's Call; Djaballah Fiercely Criticizes the Authorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Ahmed Ben Bella, former Algerian president and leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, yesterday rejected President Liamine Zeroual's call inviting his movement and three other parties which participated in the Rome conference and signed its national covenant to hold bilateral meetings from next Monday to discuss the presidential elections to be carried out before the end of the year.

Ben Bella's rejection came in a statement he made on the sidelines of the seminar held in London yesterday by the Arab Maghreb studies center headed by Abdelhamid Brahimi in cooperation with the Royal Institute for International Affairs at Chatham House. Lawyer Ali Yahya Abdelnour, spokesman for the parties which signed the national covenant document, addressed a large number of politicians, diplomats, reporters, and others interested in Algerian developments.

Ben Bella said that the elections the authorities are calling for "are worthless." He said they are "rigged from the start." He said that "the current political standstill is a situation imposed by the regime." He added that he saw no point in holding a dialogue with the authorities because "we have been engaged in a dialogue with the authorities for two years but the government only has one intention, to stay in power." He added: "We want a real dialogue embracing everyone including the government and the [Islamic] Salvation Front."

He stressed that the only way out of the crisis is the dialogue basis agreed upon in Rome and that it is necessary for everyone to participate in the dialogue so that agreement can be reached on the terms necessary to end the country's predicament. He added: Such a dialogue should not be subject to government supervision. The government should be a part of the dialogue, not the organizer of the dialogue and not the one to set conditions for participation in it.

He said that he had personally conveyed his position to President Zeroual. He added: "I spoke with him five or six times, all the time maintaining that this dialogue is not successful and that elements required for its success have not been fulfilled."

On the current Algerian internal developments, Ben Bella said that "the situation has become extremely critical in Algeria. There are vast areas in Algeria controlled not by the government but by the brother gunmen." He emphasized that a solution cannot be achieved by force and that "the government cannot solve this problem through force and violence, nor can the brothers in the mountains bring down the government."

In his speech, lawyer Abdelnour proposed a solution to the Algerian crisis on the basis of the covenant.

It mainly calls for an end to the assassination of women, intellectuals, journalists, policemen, and young recruits and military cadres not involved in the fighting, and for a truce between the Army and the security forces on the one hand and the armed groups on the other, after which representative government bodies and institutions would be set up to prepare for the restoration of the people's sovereignty in accordance with the Constitution.

He stressed the need for caution on the question of presidential elections because that is only one, premature factor in a general situation and that the security situation should be tackled before the elections.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian al-Nahdah Movement, has told AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT that the responsible departments in his movement would study the government's call for bilateral meetings. He said that his movement received the invitation last Monday, and that his departure the following day for the London meeting prevented consideration of the invitation. He said: "It is up to the responsible institutions (of the movement). At any rate, we will announce our position to the public at the right time."

On the internal situation, Shaykh Djaballah said that "the situation is moving from bad to worse. The gap between the authorities and the opposition is getting wider because of the authorities' intransigence and insistence on their own way of tackling the crisis even though that has proved to be futile and ineffective in the field."

He added: "That way of tackling the crisis has left tens of thousands dead and hundreds of institutions in ruin prompting people with opinions in the country to say repeatedly loud and clear that that was an unwise and inadequate course and to press and call for a serious in-depth comprehensive dialogue to produce a comprehensive and just political remedy for the crisis."

Asked if it would be better for the opposition to go along with the authorities on the election plan at least to test their intentions, he replied: "We have applied that theory for three years. We have had enough tests of intentions to be able to judge. But still, some views have been proposed."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Presidency Holds Talks With MAJD Delegation

LD2803112595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new series of consultations started yesterday between the presidency and the political parties about preparations for the presidential elections.

These consultations were resumed today when this morning, the Head of State, Liamine Zeroual, received a delegation from the Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD].

Our correspondent at the presidency has informed us that these consultations were attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister adviser to the head of state, by Ahmed Ouyahia, director of the presidential office, by Youcef El Khatib, political adviser to the head of state, and by Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman of the presidency. From the MAJD Movement, the meeting was attended by Abdelkader Merbah, secretary general of the Movement, and by two members of the executive committee.

This new series of consultations between the presidency and the political parties and national organizations are aimed at consulting about preparations for the presidential elections and at stopping violence.

MAJD Head Comments

LD2803195595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After meeting with the Algerian Renewal Party, President Liamine Zeroual met a delegation of the Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD] led by Abdelkader Merbah at the presidency headquarters today. [passage omitted]

Following today's meeting, Merbah said: We have responded to the invitation of the president of the state in order to deepen the electoral law. He stressed that the presidential elections have been the focus of his party's interest for a long time. From this premise, the party had presented a number of proposals, among which were the conditions required for a presidential candidate—such as advance declaration of his properties, rejection of regionalism, transparency, and accountability.

Merbah revealed that the presidency had acceded to a point that MAJD was interested in, embodied in a national committee for free elections that would give the election credibility.

For its part, the National Liberation Front [FLN] will respond to President Zeroual's invitation to attend the bilateral meetings on 2 April, according to a statement issued by the party's political bureau.

Ennahda Islamic Movement also confirmed its acceptance of the president's invitation to participate in the dialogue through bilateral negotiations.

The National Party for Solidarity and Development also announced its participation in the bilateral talks.

Al-Nahdah Movement Leader Interviewed

MM2703092295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Islamic al-Nahdah Movement leader Abdallah Djaballah by Kamil al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] What is your opinion of the head of state's invitation for the parties to attend "bilateral consultations"?

[Djaballah] We received the invitation Monday 20 March, and a day later I left for Lebanon. We will study this invitation in the al-Nahdah Movement's leading institutions, because it concerns the destiny of a people and a country. And since the movement's institutions have not yet met, there is no positive or negative response to the invitation. We will officially announce our position at the right time.

[Al-Tawil] But do you not believe that the invitation indicates that the authorities want to hold a dialogue with the parties after having closed the door in the past?

[Djaballah] We hope that the authorities will initiate a serious dialogue with the opposition, but that is not visible on the horizon. The head of state's invitation to a meeting is an invitation aimed at consultation, not advice. In the sense that he is seeking opinions merely to explore them. That is all. It is a consultation over the presidential elections issue. We have on several occasions said that the elections are one of the issues which should be addressed in a serious and responsible dialogue.

[Al-Tawil] What stage has been reached in the preparation for the national conference you intend to hold in Algeria?

[Djaballah] Most parties—that is, the parties to the national covenant—are now convinced of the need to hold a national conference inside Algeria as soon as possible. I believe that every party is now preparing the view it is going to submit at the national meeting, which will not depart from the basis of the national covenant. It will detail this basis and explain its content. Last Saturday (18 march) a meeting was held between the National Liberation Front and the al-Nahdah Movement. It was agreed at the meeting to reactivate the working team on whose establishment we agreed early in the year.

[Al-Tawil] Do you believe that the measures taken against leading Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS] officials (banned from exercising political activities) fall within the framework of obstructing preparations for the national conference?

[Djaballah] Without doubt the measures taken by the authorities against FIS officials are measures moving in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the opposite direction to the national covenant group's endeavors. Without doubt these measures obstruct our endeavors. We interpreted these measures as a response rejecting the endeavors of the national covenant group—which consolidates our belief that the authorities are determined to continue their dominant course with regard to resolving the current crisis. This course is based on using force to resolve the security situation and on [presidential] elections as a means of solving the problem of illegitimacy.

We in the national covenant group condemn this behavior and believe that it further complicates the situation. We also urge the authorities to backtrack on these measures and to positively and objectively read the basis of the national covenant. Because we believe that they are responsible for securing all factors of success for the national dialogue endeavors.

[Al-Tawil] What is your opinion of the authorities' claim that the national covenant has brought nothing new, and that its gist was contained in the statement of the national accord conference early last year?

[Djaballah] If that is true, why are they attacking it. They are rejecting the basis of the national covenant. Why are they dealing with the basis of the covenant as a "non-event." Those statements negate one another. The basis of the national covenant contained what the national accord document did not contain. The covenant's basis did not just tackle the issue of the general principles but also addressed the issue of the practical measures to resolve the crisis gradually and fairly.

[Al-Tawil] The security situation in the country is going from bad to worse. Do you believe that the reins of power are now in the hands of the extremists on both sides? Is there still a role for the moderates?

[Djaballah] Regrettably, that is the picture as it stands at the moment. As a result of this picture, all the good endeavors made by many political and national figures in the country have failed. We hope that those [extremists], or some of them, will come to their senses in view of the tragedies experienced by the Algerian people—tragedies which have few counterparts in the tense states of the world, because the crisis has inflicted on our people what has not been inflicted on the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina.

[Al-Tawil] Have you had contacts with the FIS in Algeria since your return from Rome-2?

[Djaballah] We have had contacts with some leaders, such as Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham. Contacts are continuing between us, since they are a party to the national covenant group. And of course, we exchange views on the current situation and ways of extricating the country from the crisis.

[Al-Tawil] Will the FIS participate in the conference for which you are preparing?

[Djaballah] Yes, there is a strong possibility that it is going to participate, because we cannot imagine a solution in which the FIS does not participate. Nor can we imagine a solution in which the authorities do not participate.

[Al-Tawil] Are the opposition parties' London meetings part of the preparation for a certain move on your part?

[Djaballah] We were not familiar with the real situation, because I came to London thinking that the meeting would last for a full day so as to give all participants the opportunity to speak. So I prepared myself and wrote my speech. But I was surprised when I learned that the meeting would last for just an hour and that it would revolve around a lecture by Ali Yehya Abdennour. I believe that the London meeting is purely an informational meeting and part of the national covenant parties' endeavors to explain the national covenant.

[Al-Tawil] Do you intend to hold a conference for the opposition in an Arab state?

[Djaballah] Such an idea does not exist. Nor do I believe that we need such a meeting. Meetings are now held in Algeria....

[Al-Tawil] There is talk of a conference to be held in Morocco.

[Djaballah] I have no knowledge of that, nor have I heard of it. Nor do I believe that the national covenant parties need to hold another meeting abroad, unless it is an informational meeting aimed at explaining the content of the national covenant.

[Al-Tawil] There is a lot of talk—which is being denied by the authorities—to the effect that they have lost control of vast areas in the countryside. What truth is there in this?

[Djaballah] The security situation is very bad. And I have said that the harm inflicted on the Algerian people exceeds the harm inflicted on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina during the war years. The number of those killed in our country exceeds 40,000, perhaps 50,000. And hundreds of establishments have been destroyed. I believe that the most important question is: Should the current conflict in Algeria be settled through force or dialogue? I firmly believe that the conflict should not be settled by force, nor can any party settle it in its favor through force. The conflict can only be settled through a comprehensive, serious, and responsible dialogue.

[Al-Tawil] Do you mean that the authorities will not be toppled militarily?

[Djaballah] If by toppling the authorities you mean changing the faces of those assuming power, that is possible. It has happened and it will happen. But does changing the faces mean changing the regime? The answer is: No. The regime exists and will continue, and it can only be tackled through dialogue. The causes of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

crisis the country is experiencing are fundamental and deep. These causes can be summed up as follows:

1. Democracy in the country was not the outcome of natural development in the decisionmakers' way of thinking. It came in response to the West's demands and in accordance with its wish to impose an international order based on autocracy and to promote its own democratic system.

2. The absence of a modern concept of the state. No state has existed in Algeria since independence in the form of a political and institutional structure.that watches over the organization of forces inside society for the sake of public welfare. Our rulers have always considered themselves the state: They own power and see the people as the authorities' property, not vice versa.

3. The contradiction between constitutional and legal stipulations on the one hand and the reality inside the authorities. Proof of this is abundant: More than 40 articles of the Constitutions are being flouted.

4. The absence of a real political pluralism, since that can be used as a main tool to achieve national unity and promote the political ideas and the philosophical orientations concerning the various affairs of society. [The regime's] pluralism has been perpetuated away from the laws drawn up to protect it from excesses. This is why it has been one of the most important tools that have helped to accelerate the process of the destruction of Algerian society.

5. Perpetuation of subservience to the West, especially France and the IMF.

6. The authorities' way of handling the crisis. From the outset they have opted to tackle the crisis by recourse to force. And they have refused to listen to any.of the views submitted which are based on dialogue and aimed at achieving reconciliation as a way of resolving the crisis.

These, in brief, are the causes of the crisis in the country. Of course, there are other causes, such as ignorance of the religion of Almighty God, unemployment, and moral corruption. There are also political causes, such as the cancellation of the elections, the dissolution of the FIS, and the various excess committed during the pursuit of FIS supporters who were reacting to the party's dissolution. It was these causes which detonated the situation and fueled the main causes I have mentioned, and which I believe are the real causes of the crisis in the country.

'Secret Dialogue' With FIS Reportedly Resumed

MM2803103295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Madani and Belhadj Have Been Moved to Suburbs of Algiers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has learned that Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have been returned to the suburbs of the Algerian capital. It has been reported that Shaykh Abassi has been placed in the Douera residence, 15 km west of the capital. It is the same residence in which former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella was placed for several years in the days of the late President Houari Boumediene. As for Shaykh Ali Belhadj, he has been placed in another residence in Tebessa (75 km west of Algiers).

These "measures" confirm the resumption of the "secret dialogue" with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The sources also say that changes are expected to be made in the military establishment, including the General Staff, as it has been reported that General Ben Hadid Hocine (who is close to the president) is a candidate for the post of deputy to Chief of Staff Mohamed Lamari, and Gen. Saidi Fadil (commander of the second district) is a candidate for the post of chief of the gendarme forces, succeeding Gen. Abassi Gazel. The sources add that the change will include the general secretary of the Defense Ministry. This "awaited change" coincides with an initiative by eight retired generals known as the "National Liberation Army's Line." They include Rachid Ben Yeles, Lakhal Ayat, Kamal Abderrahim, Abdelmadjid Cherif, Zeinoddin Hachichi, Ali Abdelaoui, and Ali Bouhedja. It is represented in the submission "next week to the head of state, President Liamine Zeroual, of a plan for national reconciliation and dialogue with the FIS." This plan will be submitted in the form of a "petition" signed by the eight generals and a number of colonels. [passage omitted]

FIS Founding Chairman, Leaders Under House Arrest

LD2803140795 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned that Abassi Madani, the founding chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, have once again been put under house arrest in Algiers after several weeks spent under a stricter regime—in other words, in prison.

Security Services Report Killing 15 'Terrorists'

LD2803192195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that their forces killed 15 terrorists during operations in Jijel, the capital Algiers, Constantine, and Skikda, where 12 terrorists were killed in Jijel alone, and a number of hide-outs were also destroyed.

The statement of the security services added that a quantity of weapons was recovered, and a number of cars seized during these operations.

GIA Leader Reportedly Killed May Be Djamel Zitouni

LD2903100795 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria the paper EL WATAN, quoting sources close to the Islamists, reports

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this morning that the head of the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA, is reported to have died in a recent offensive by the security forces. According to this newspaper he could be Djamel Zitouni, alias Abou Abderrahmane, the main leader of the GIA since 1994.

Salvation Army Video Affirms Loyalty to FIS Leadership

MM2903115795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Salvation Army Reaffirms Loyalty to Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris— Yet another Algerian journalist has fallen victim to the continuing chain of violence. Mohamed Abderrahmani, director of the government paper EL MOUDJAHID (published in French), was assassinated yesterday morning by unknown gunmen near his home. That takes the number of journalists assassinated in the same way to 30.

The new victim had no particular political affiliations. He was an old employee of EL MOUDJAHID who was engaged in technical work. He was appointed director of the paper on the basis of seniority and not for any political reasons as in the case of other media officials.

Meanwhile, informed sources have denied reports claiming that 600 gunmen were killed in fighting at Ain Defla southwest of the Algerian capital. The source said that the number of people killed did not exceed 200, and not all of them were confirmed as gunmen. The story circulating in knowledgeable circles is that a member of the armed groups agreed to cooperate with the security organs, betrayed his comrades, and led the Army and security forces to an area where a large number of gunmen, perhaps more than 300, were gathered. To avoid a clash that could lead to heavy Army losses, an all-out attack was launched on the entire area in which all types of weapons were used, including the Air Force.

In another development, an Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] videotape shot in western Algeria has been smuggled into Europe. It is the first of its kind in that it is the first AIS movie product and the first accurately documented record. It gives a detailed account of the daily life of the rebel gunmen and includes interviews with the region's AIS amir and with local amirs in the provinces of Mostaganem, Glezanne, Mouaskar, Tiaret, and Bel Abbes reaffirming the AIS' loyalty to the historic leadership of the [Islamic Salvation] Front [FIS] represented by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and emphasizing that they would not lay down their arms until an Islamic state is established as envisaged by the FIS.

The tape shows samples of arms used and scenes of military training and some sports such as Judo and Karate. It carries statements by gunmen who had been members of the Army and security forces giving their reasons for desertion, such as torture and murder they said the Army and security forces carried out. The tape also includes an appeal to young military conscripts urging them to desert from the Army and join the fighters.

Anyone viewing the tape, a copy of which was obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, would notice that the AIS commanders are highly educated and politically minded people. Most of them were local FIS leaders and were FIS candidates in the municipal and legislative elections who won seats, unlike the Armed Group commanders who got their field command positions for their fighting skills not their cultural and political qualifications.

The three-hour video was shot in January.

In another development, the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front has announced that it will accept President Zeroual's invitation to the 2 April meeting.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Political Bureau confirmed its previously declared position on the presidential elections and the consultations organized by the presidency. That position was explained in the reply letter sent to President Zeroual on 14 February.

In yesterday's statement, the Political Bureau said that it decided to attend the meeting to submit its proposals regarding the solution necessary for the dangerous situation in the country on the basis of its own position and the joint position of the parties to the national covenant, that is the Rome document.

That partial change in the Political Bureau's position comes in response to the wishes of some of its members who believe that President Zeroual's new invitation includes a new element because it has added the issue of "violence" to the meeting's agenda, unlike previous dialogue meetings. It also comes in the context of coordination with some of the opposition parties who signed the Rome agreement, especially the Socialist Forces Front which might in turn announce its intention to attend the meeting without changing the essence of its position on the presidential elections.

Journalist Responds to Sifi's Refutation of Interview

MM2303152395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 5

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Clarification Regarding Algerian Denial of Parts of the Prime Minister's Interview"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—In view of the Algerian Government's denial of some parts of the interview I conducted with him which was published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT last Sunday, I wish to make the following clarification:

"The interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi lasted several hours. What was published consisted of some excerpts from the interview perhaps sometimes giving an incomplete picture of the situation. The published text

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

consisted of extensive notes taken during the interview and reflecting the prime minister's views on all the major issues discussed.

"Holding interviews with Algerian leaders is considered these days to be a very risky matter. Last week Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif issued a statement denying the remarks he made in his interview with Robert Fisk of the British daily THE INDEPENDENT.

"One could cite other such examples. The chairman of the [Algerian] National Oil Company Sonatrach denied remarks he made in an interview with Jan Ellis [as transliterated] of CBS."

A statement issued by the prime minister's office had said that some things were added to the interview and that the author "inserted comments in the prime minister's interview that were out of his own imagination, and some questions mentioned were not even raised in the interview."

Dailies Pay Tribute To Slain EL-MOUDJAHID Chief

LD2803141895 Rabat MAP in English 1329 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Mar. 28 (MAP)—Sixteen Algerian national dailies, both Arabic and French speaking, appeared this Tuesday [28 March] in a single 32 page release to pay tribute to director of EL-MOUDJAHID daily Mohamed Abderrahmani assassinated Monday in the Algerian capital. On the first page of the special release features the condolence message of Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to Abderrahmani's family and the EL-MOUDJAHID editorial.

'Mohamed Abderrahmani was assassinated but EL-MOUDJAHID, faithful to the memory of the late journalist, is still alive ... this is not a stand we exhibit, but a determination we renew: terrorism will not make us give in', said the editorial.

On the page devoted to his daily, director of 'EL WATAN' Omar Belhouchet voiced the same determination. Asking who is next?, he said that Algerian journalists are facing a terrible dilemma: give in or resist. 'Djaout, Mekbal, Yefsah, Abderrahmani and others show the path to follow, that of honor and dignity', he concluded.

The sixteen dailies which participated in the release are 'EL-MOUDJAHID', 'L'OPINION', 'HORIZONS', 'L'AUTHENTIQUE', 'LE MATIN', 'EL CHAAB', 'EL OUMMA', 'EL MASSA', 'LA TRIBUNE', 'EL KHABAR', 'LIBERTE', 'ESSIASSA', 'EL WATAN', 'LE SOIR D'ALGERIE', 'AL HAYAT AL ARABIA' and 'ES SALAM'.

Abderrahmani, shot dead in his car presumably by Islamists is to be buried this Tuesday in El Alia cemetery in Algiers suburbs.

Presidency Receives Berber Delegation

LD2303171895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives from the Presidency have met with a delegation representing Berber associations and other personalities concerned with education.

The following statement has been released by the presidency: Within the framework of the state's efforts to resolve the problem of the school boycott brought about by demands for Berber language, representatives from the presidency met today with a delegation which included representatives from regional Berber associations as well as other concerned parties. They were led by Ferhat Mehenni [leader of the Berber Cultural Movement].

MCB's Head Ends Boycott of Schools

LD2303172195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Ferhat Mehenni [leader of the Berber Cultural Movement, MCB] held a news conference at the Tahar Djaout press club in Algiers this morning in which he called on pupils, teachers, and pupils' parents to end their boycott of schools. Our correspondent Fodil Saadeddine has more details:

[Saadeddine] After seven months of boycott and after a series of talks with representatives of the government and the State Presidency, and following yesterday's meeting between a delegation from the Berber movement and representatives of the president of state, Ferhat Mehenni this morning gave a news conference in which he reviewed the evolution of the Amazigh issue and the moves made since 6 October 1994 [when the boycott started]. Ferhat Mehenni said that the Amazigh issue has being used by politicians in their maneuverings, and he added that the issue must be freed from the grip of these politicians—hence yesterday's meeting which was crowned by a proposal to set up a national council whose task will be to rehabilitate Tamazight [Berber language], and include it in the educational and media sectors.

As a result, Mehenni appealed to all pupils, students, and their parents to return to school and end the boycott. He said that the reasons behind his appeal stem from the authorities' understanding of the need to rehabilitate Tamazight and set up a national council which will be made up of all those concerned by the issue.

In reply to a question on ways to catch up on the lessons, Mehenni said that if the pupils and students in the Kabylie region return to school, they will be allowed to sit for the Baccalaureat exams twice—once in June and in November for the resits.

In reply to a question on how credible and strong a representative of the Berber movement he is [reference to split in MBC between MBC-national commission and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

MBC-coordination which Mehenni leads], Mehenni said: I am the main driving force behind the boycott. Therefore the response to this appeal will give us the answer to this question. He concluded by saying that a joint statement will be issued in the next few days giving more details on this issue.

Egypt

Envoy to Washington: U.S. Uses Double Standards

NC2103134495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Mar 95 p 6

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian ambassador to Washington Ahmad Mahir has stressed that Egypt does not accept pressure from the United States or any other country no matter what the size of the aid it receives. In a statement to AL-SHA'B, he said that Arab and Islamic public opinion is now convinced of the double standards the U.S. policy is pursuing on the issues of the Third World, primarily on Arab and Islamic issues. He noted that Washington should realize this and take it into consideration.

Mahir denied that the United States requested that Egypt sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], particularly during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest visit to Cairo. He stressed that Christopher's talks involved mutual review of their views.

Mahir stressed that Egypt's stance is clear and well-known. It is not opposed to NPT but to the Israeli secret nuclear program which poses a serious threat to Arab national security, noting that Egypt cannot keep silent about it. He noted that Egypt's objective stance has not changed and came after deep study of all political, legal, and security aspects of the issue. He said it is not an emotional position taken at the spur of the moment but a position that concerns our national security. He stressed that Egypt has the Israeli nuclear program on the forefront of its interest and that the NPT comes next.

Mahir criticized Israel's policy, saying it is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process. He ruled out the possibility of the United states giving in to the Zionist lobby seeking the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem in response to Israeli demands. He said that he has assurances from the U.S. Administration's respect for Jerusalem's status and that its fate will be left to the final stage of the negotiations and will not be recognized as the unified capital of Israel. He stressed that Egypt will not agree to any country's taking such a step and that the appropriate measure will be taken against it should it take such a position.

Discusses Bilateral Ties, NPT

NC2903102695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0521 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Interview with Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir by Shadya Riyad; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Riyad] Ambassador, why is President Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington described as one of his most important and crucial visits to the United States?

[Mahir] The visit is very important because it falls within the context of invariable facts and changes. The invariable fact is that there is a very strong relationship between Egypt and the United States that allows agreement on many issues and also allows for variance in views. Thus it is important to discuss this relationship and ways to enhance and advance it on the highest levels in every field.

Contacts permanently take place on other levels, whether on the ambassadorial level or during exchanged visits by officials. It is important that all this be crowned with a meeting between the two presidents, something that happens continually.

As for the changes, a new Congress has been elected in the United States in which the Republicans form a majority. Egypt has always had ties with both the Democratic and Republican parties whether in government or in opposition. In the presence of this new Congress dominated by a party not belonging to the President and in light of a new atmosphere in Washington regarding numerous issues, it is important that the Americans—Administration, Congress, and people—listen to the President's views and assessment of relations between the two countries and the desire to enhance them, the Middle East peace process, or the world situation.

[Riyad] You mentioned earlier that there are firm ties between Egypt and the United States. Perhaps you recall that President Mubarak addressed a joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council on the Egyptian economy's future. He said we are on the threshold of a production boom because we possess numerous fundamentals. Among the fundamentals to which President Mubarak referred was that we have many friends who are willing to extend a helping hand to us. To what extent does this apply to the United States?

[Mahir] The United States is a friend of Egypt and there are great and numerous ties of cooperation between them in economic and other fields. The agreements recently signed during Vice President Al Gore's visit to Egypt lay a new framework for these ties, including many aspects: The aid, which will continue at least in the coming stage, with, as the president said, our understanding that it will not be everlasting. There is another aspect: trade, developing bilateral trade relations, allowing Egyptian products to reach the American

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

market more easily, encouraging U.S. investments now that Egypt has secured every guarantee for foreign and Egyptian investors, and finally the exchange of technology to achieve progress in Egyptian products and their quality.

We and the Americans are interested in this relationship, which is based on cooperation, friendship, and equality.

[Riyad] Ambassador, there are differences in views between Egypt and the United States but this disagreement does not affect the friendship. For example, there are differences over some issues, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Reports confirm that there is a U.S. role to advance the positive dialogue between Egypt and Israel on the nuclear crisis. What are the limits of this U.S. role?

[Mahir] Naturally, as you mentioned, there should be differences in views on some issues due to each country's history, geography, and political and national responsibilities.

As regards nuclear nonproliferation, the United States agrees with Egypt that the nuclear nonproliferation system must be maintained and that its scope must be expanded to become universal as stipulated by the Treaty, which is what Egypt is seeking.

There is understanding in the United States of the effects of the presence of a secret nuclear program near the Egyptian border and in the center of the Middle East, which no one knows anything about. This program causes concern. And there is understanding that, as we build peace, we should build confidence and that confidence cannot be built on the presence of such a program or on an imbalance among the region's countries.

The United States has its own view, a view on which we differ, concerning the timing of the move to ensure Israel's commitment to this Treaty. We say that now is the appropriate time, because a conference is being held to review and renew the Treaty, there is a peace process in progress, and there are attempts to build a new Middle East, one that must be built on the bases of confidence and equality.

Realizing this issue, the United States is talking to Israel, calling on it to respond to the Egyptian stance. As explained by the president and the foreign minister, the Egyptian stance is firm and will not change. The United States is calling on Israel to respond to this stance.

We may see that the United States' urging of Israel is not as strong as we would have wished and we may see that Israel is not responding quickly to the Egyptian stance. So we demand further movement and a further response.

Cairo Concern Over NPT, U.S. Aid, Gore Trip Viewed

NC2803094795 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 2

[From the "Our Foreign Policy" column by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "'Post-Peace' Anxiety"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "peace process" is stalling but not to the extent of preventing our capitals from being preoccupied with the post-peace problems.

Cairo is now probably greatly preoccupied with Egyptian-Israeli rivalry. Which of the two countries will have the decisive word in deciding the fate of the region?

There is no doubt that the storm caused by Cairo about not signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is closely linked with this problem.

Cairo has never thought of embarking on a nuclear arms race with Israel. The issue has not only been a "military" or "security" one, but has also primarily been one concerning Egypt's status and dignity under peace. How could there be "parity" between two parties, one nuclear and the other not allowed to gain the status afforded nuclear countries?

President Mubarak agreed to make Egypt's stance more flexible, but for a period, on the basis that setting a time limit for the extension enables Egypt to review this Treaty and expand it to other countries that have not yet joined it. This expression was interpreted to refer to Israel. The president expressed the hope that Israel will clearly commit itself to joining the NPT later. He confirmed that Egypt never intended to withdraw from the Treaty.

It is clear that President Mubarak, by adopting this stance, has decided to respond to Japan's desire, not only that of the United States. Japan is the only country to have suffered two atomic bombs, which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan is against turning the issue of nuclear weapons into one of bargaining and maneuvers. It demands a ban on them forever. It thus fully supports the U.S. position on the need to extend the Treaty.

But U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Cairo this week and the raising of the issue of setting up a "partnership" between Egypt and the United States on technological development reveal that the U.S. Administration, now that it does not have a majority in Congress, cannot continue its aid to Egypt as in the past. It might be looking for an alternative that can be used to say that aid is continuing. President Clinton concluded an agreement on U.S.- Israeli cooperation and on the exchange of bilateral achievements and expertise in the fields of advanced technology as soon as he assumed power.

Cairo realizes that it faces the threat of U.S. aid being cut off. The storm raised over Egypt's refusal to sign the Treaty has subjected Egypt to the danger of having its aid cut off. It might appear to Cairo that the United States and the European Union might be closer to Israel than to Egypt in the post-peace era, on the basis that Israel is the "key state in the region." This could be the reason for President Mubarak's visit to Japan, the Asian superpower that leads a group of rising Asian countries described as "tigers" and that Cairo looks at as an example in achieving its development.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Japan does not have the same ties with Israel that the United States and the Western European countries have with the Hebrew state. Japan is also heavily dependent on the Gulf for its oil. Thus Cairo's moves toward Japan might be aimed at achieving a balance to Israel's dependence on the United States and Europe in the Middle East's conflicts and rivalries.

Japan is also probably in dire need of a political status commensurate with its economic one. It might seize the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations to demand its "right" to a permanent seat in the Security Council. In return for its economic and technological support for Egypt and its help in some giant engineering projects, it could be hoping that Egypt will help it in return by urging the Arab League member states to support Japan's demand from the United Nations.

But it should also be understood that Japan has special relations with the United States, regardless of the competition between them. This was clearly shown in the two countries' identical positions on the issue of the Treaty. Both insisted that Egypt sign and that Cairo cannot ignore their wish. This shows that wagering on rivalry between the superpowers of tomorrow's world does not necessarily benefit developing countries.

Gore's Visit Said To Mark 'New Phase' in Ties

NC2803101195 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: Al Gore and a New Phase]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cordial and sensitive phrases and the mutual praise that engulfed U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit and talks in Cairo have not succeeded in covering over the differences between the two countries. But the spotlights on the visit and interest shown in it have equally shown the two sides' desire to say that their common interests and close ties are much greater than the apparent differences and signs of tension.

The visit was made before a background of mutual media campaigns that might be attributed to press circles or political elements close to the supporters of the Jewish lobby in Congress. The U.S. Administration might have nothing to do with these campaigns but they are signalling the suspicious tendencies in U.S. policy that exceed the apparent bias toward Israel of which President Clinton's Administration is accused. These tendencies were made very clear in the memorandum sent by 93 senators to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher demanding that the U.S. Embassy be moved to Jerusalem by 1999. The memorandum did not pay the slightest attention to the effects of this destructive initiative on the peace process at the critical stage it is going through.

It has become clear from Gore's statements in Egypt and then Jordan that the issue of nuclear proliferation was raised during the Cairo talks. But the U.S. vice president did not obtain concessions on it from the Egyptian side and the latter did not succeed in convincing Washington of the gravity of the repercussions of maintaining Israel's exemption from the restrictions of international supervision. Al Gore put the Egyptian proposals aside when he stressed that extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has nothing to do with the Arab countries' worries from Israel's possession of nuclear weapons.

Contrary to this, the U.S. interest in setting up an economic partnership with Egypt seemed to be an attempt to react to the efforts being made in congressional circles to reduce U.S. aid to Egypt because of the nuclear crisis or as a result of a new U.S. tendency toward reducing U.S. foreign aid in general.

It is clear that the U.S. stand on foreign aid is now changing and moving in new directions whose effects will appear after 1996. Al Gore announced on the last day of the Copenhagen summit that the U.S. foreign aid program will be directed to private institutions and companies in the poor countries and not directly to governments. This is evident from the agreements signed in Cairo, the interest in giving aid to private institutions, and the formation of an independent body from the private sector to help the joint Egyptian- U.S. committee. All these are signs indicating that Egyptian-U.S. relations will enter a new phase.

Security Measures on Gore Trip Criticized

NC2803112995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 9

["Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Sorry Al Gore"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Luxor city was paralyzed last Tuesday [21 March] by U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit and the awkward security measures adopted.

The measures suggested that every citizen, tourist, indeed anyone who happened to be in Luxor on the morning of the U.S. guest's visit, came just to assassinate him.

I received several telephone calls and fax messages from those who were affected by the situation. The Nile cruisers between the eastern and western banks, the most important means of transport and the most important link between the two banks, came to a halt for several hours. The two banks were separated from each other and tourist groups, some of which were booked to fly, were stranded on the two banks. People's urgent needs were disrupted by the guest's visit. Besides, tourist visits to tombs and temples were halted and thousands of Egypt's guests were deprived of their visits by a single guest.

Security measures to protect guests are most welcome but the U.S. security authorities that requested these protection measures were seen to have overacted without justification. Personalities who were awaiting Gore's arrival at Cairo Airport acted improperly, thinking the guest's guards were terrorists.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

During his stay in Egypt, Al Gore visited the pyramids and Luxor and attended a reception at the U.S. Embassy and a party at the Marriott held by the Egyptian-U.S. Chamber. I saw him at the party and personally admired him. I found his disposition and ability to influence others better than the same qualities in Clinton.

During his tour, Gore came across no terrorist, not because of the security measures, but because Egypt is truly not the way some people imagine it to be. There is no comparison between the crimes committed in Cairo and those committed in a city like New York, although Cairo's population is more than that of New York.

Excessive security measures prompt a feeling of hostility between the simple man on the street and the protected person. There is nothing worse than a well-intentioned citizen being ambushed by surprise security measures and finding himself paralyzed or stranded in a car, street, or house, unable to move, perform an urgent job, or even to answer the call of nature.

Perhaps it would have been better in the case of Gore's visit to Luxor to advise and warn citizens beforehand so that they could take precautions.

Sorry Al Gore. You could have seen a pleasant picture of Egyptian people but it was obscured by your armed men.

'Most' of Gore's NPT Proposals Reportedly Rejected

JN2803200095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Mar 95 pp 1, 34

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt has rejected most of the proposals which were presented by U.S. Vice President Al Gore to settle the Egyptian-Israeli conflict over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that during his visit to Cairo last week, he failed to persuade Egypt to relinquish its objection to renew the treaty unless Israel signs it. Israel said it will reply to the Egyptian proposals on the renewal of the treaty, but did not set a date for this reply.

Sources said that Al Gore conveyed to the Egyptian officials an Israeli proposal to eliminate part of the Israeli nuclear program within a period of not less than two years and no more than 27 months, providing that this part shall be the nuclear installations which are close to the Egyptian borders. The sources added that in return, Israel asked Egypt to stop calling on it to join the NPT.

Cairo has informed the U.S. vice president that there will be no retreat on setting a reasonable date for Israel's joining of the NPT. Cairo also asked him to inform Israel that the fears expressed by some regional parties as an excuse for not joining the NPT also apply to Egypt. [passage omitted]

In Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt will ask the Arab foreign ministers, during their meeting in Cairo today, to study what has been reached by the Pan-Arab Advisory Committee which was entrusted by President Husni Mubarak to study the legal dimensions of the approval of renewing the NPT. The ministers will today discuss the adoption of a unified Arab stand in support of Egypt's proposal on the means of making the Middle East a zone free of mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti on Jerusalem, NPT, Embargo Against Iraq

NC2603065095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that Israel's attempt to regard Jerusalem as its capital violates the UN resolutions, which do not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In an interview published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, he said that during his visit to Washington King Husayn of Jordan will discuss the pressure carried out by some members of the U.S. Congress to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

On the Jordanian Foreign Ministry's efforts to counter the popular pressure to foil the Jordanian-Israeli normalization process, al-Kabariti explained that the normalization process is not decided by the government but by the people and by the popular will. He indicated that there are opponents to the peace process and agreement.

On Jordan's stance on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], al-Kabariti said the location of the Dimona reactor poses a danger to Jordan because it is only 20 miles [distance as received] from the biggest population center in Jordan. He expressed the hope that there will be firm international control of all Israeli nuclear installations, affirming that Jordan supports Egypt's stance on the NPT.

On the lifting of the embargo against Iraq, al-Kabariti said Jordan has sustained substantial losses as a result of its adherence to the UN resolutions. In this connection, it asks the international community to lift the embargo either wholly or partially, especially now that Iraq has complied with the UN resolutions.

Paper Rejects Israel's Exception From NPT

NC2603071395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that it is difficult to speak about a balanced peace in any region of the world when one party unilaterally has an ambiguous nuclear program. By the same token, it is difficult to speak about an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] with an exception in the Middle East represented by Israel's unilateral possession

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of a nuclear program and nuclear installations that do not come under any international supervision or control.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Israel's unilateral possession of a secret and ambiguous program is undoubtedly a violation of the NPT and a serious breach of the principles and bases of a balanced peace in the new Middle East.

The newspaper explains that peace has opened the door for negotiation over everything between the Arabs and Israel, including Israel's nuclear program and secret nuclear installations. This is the peace that Egypt aspires to in the new Middle East.

Mubarak Receives Call From Israeli President

NC2903112395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman today. They exchanged views on several issues of common interest.

Syrian Deputy Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2603131395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Rashid Akhtarini, Syrian deputy prime minister for services affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a five-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Syrian official is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi, and Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman, minister of state for new urban communities, who received the Syrian guest upon arrival. Akhtarini will also visit the industrial areas in the new urban cities.

Sudanese Minister Says Relations 'Distorted'

EA2703202895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, has stressed that relations between Sudan and Egypt are being systematically distorted in order to serve other quarters. The remark was made during a gathering of intellectuals held at the Sudanese ambassador's residence in Cairo yesterday, which was attended by a number of Egyptian intellectuals and politicians. The foreign minister said that the outstanding problems between the two countries do not justify a severing of relations, nor does the difference in orientation justify the suspension of cooperation in different fields.

Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said the conspiracy in the south of the country cannot be separated from the attempts to make Israel the greatest power in the region. He pointed out that Western campaigns against Sudan will only increase the people's determination and commitment to their civilized course.

During the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, said the National Salvation Revolution has made great achievements in spite of the undeclared blockade against Sudan. He stressed the need for activating people's diplomacy between Egypt and Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Speaker on Ties, Elections

NC2803065595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly (Parliament), has stated his country's desire to strengthen and improve relations with Egypt, the big sister no Arab country can ignore and without which no advance can be made.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published on 28 March, Khalifah said that Sudan supports the ideas propounded by President Husni Mubarak in his speech on the 50th anniversary of the Arab League, ideas calling for strengthening the League's status and role in the coming stage and defining our objectives.

He expressed the Sudanese Government's hopes for the success of the current visit to Egypt by Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha and his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa so that relations will become as strong as they once were, because each country is the strategic depth for the other.

He denied that the Islamic Front is controlling Sudan's regime. He said: It does not exist as a political organization. If some of its elements are in the government, then it becomes like any other party and its elements, but it cannot be said that it is in control.

Regarding the explanations given for the resignation of former Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih and his replacement by 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, who is a leading figure in the Islamic Front, and that this meant a lack of desire for rapprochement with Egypt, Speaker Khalifah said this explanation is wrong and that the new foreign minister is more enthusiastic about strengthening relations with Egypt and ending every difference with it.

Regarding his own country, he said: Elections to the provinces' councils are now being held in the 26 provinces, including the 10 southern provinces, with the exception of West Equatoria, where the John Garang forces are. The elections are held in two ways, one direct through electoral districts and the other by electing the provinces' representatives to the National Assembly. These will be followed by presidential elections.

He noted that contacts are under way with the leaders of the dissolved parties and with leaders inside and outside the country to agree on firm principles in preparation for the new situation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Reportage on Visit by Russia's Kozyrev

Arrives in Cairo

NC2803155495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a two-day visit to Egypt. He was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who welcomed him as a minister of a superpower and of a friendly country of Egypt. Musa said: We are looking forward to constructive and fruitful talks. He said President Husni Mubarak will receive the Russian foreign minister.

Kozyrev said that the Russian Federation and Egypt are linked by firm and steady relations and that Egypt is a big power in the Middle East and plays a main role in establishing peace in the region. He said that he will deliver a message from President Yeltsin to President Mubarak whom he highly respects and appreciates.

Talks Open at Foreign Ministry

NC2803192095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—The Egyptian-Russian talks opened at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian side and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived in Cairo earlier today on a two-day visit, led the Russian side.

The two side will discuss international issues of common interest, the developments in the Middle East, and the role of Russia as a cosponsor of the peace process in overcoming the difficulties facing the peace process. The two sides will also discuss ways to consolidate Egyptian-Russian relations at the various levels.

Arab League Chief, Kozyrev Meet

NC2803195595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his accompanying delegation at the Arab League headquarters. Kozyrev is on a visit to Cairo as part of a tour of a number of regional countries.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he had discussed with the Russian minister the developments in the Middle East peace process, the Libyan-Western crisis known as the Lockerbie crisis, and the situation in Iraq. He added that Russia supports the guarantees for balance in the region as far as nuclear weapons are concerned.

Regarding the Libyan-Western crisis, 'Abd-al-Majid noted that Russia is exerting efforts to ease the crisis, which is a positive endeavor. He added that Russia wants Iraq to continue its implementation of the Security Council resolutions so that the sanctions imposed on it could be eased. He added that he had briefed the Russian minister on the Arab League Council's resolutions, particularly that concerning the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Musa, Kozyrev Hold News Conference

NC2803213795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held a news conference this evening at the end of their talks. Speaking at the beginning of the news conference, Musa stated that their talks had focused on all issues related to the Middle East and areas of mutual interest, whether in Europe or the Mediterranean. He added that Egypt appreciates the Egyptian-Russian cooperation in all fields in view of Russia's capacity as one of the cosponsors of the peace conference. He noted that the bilateral cooperation and exchange of views on issues of mutual interest will continue, hoping that this will lead to fruitful relations that serve peace and welfare in the region.

For his part, the Russian foreign minister praised the close ties linking the two countries, which go back more than 200 years. He added that Egypt plays a major role for achieving peace in the Middle East. He noted that he had discussed with Musa the Middle East peace process and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He added that he looks forward to meeting President Husni Mubarak tomorrow.

The Russian foreign minister expressed his country's regret at Israel's refusal to join the NPT. Answering a question on Russia's position on Israel's refusal to sign the treaty, he stated that Russia urges all the world's countries to join this treaty, adding that one of the objectives of his tour is to search for ways for the NPT to be universal. He noted that the Russian-Iranian cooperation is for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and under the principles of the NPT.

The Russian foreign minister pointed out that his country supports the Bosnian peace plan and that he discussed with Musa ways to consolidate the peace efforts undertaken by the international Contact Group.

Regarding the situation in Chechnya, Kozyrev stated that his country is working to halt the fighting there, noting that the final objective is to hold elections that could lead to the establishment of an elected government within the federation with Russia and according to the Russian Constitution.

Mubarak Meets Kozyrev

NC2903091595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the Presidential Office this morning.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and, on the Russian side, by Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk and Russia's Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov.

Musa, Kozyrev Comment on Talks, NPT

NC2903120895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin containing an invitation to visit Russia.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced this after President Mubarak's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which lasted an hour and a half. Musa said President Mubarak accepted the invitation and that preparations for the visit will be made through diplomatic channels.

Musa added that President Mubarak and Kozyrev discussed several topics, primarily the Middle East peace process, Israel's nuclear program, and Israel's refusal to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said they also discussed the relations between Egypt and the Russian Federation and the situation in Bosnia and Chechnya.

Andrey Kozyrev said he was pleased with the spirit of cooperation in the relations between Egypt and Russia, noting that the Russian people and Government share the same feeling toward the continuation of cooperation between the two countries.

He praised Egypt's role in consolidating stability in the Middle East and its role in Africa and the Gulf region.

The Russian foreign minister said he and President Mubarak discussed ways to advance the peace process in the Middle East. He emphasized the importance of this to the talks he will be holding during his tour of the region, which will cover Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and the self-rule areas.

Kozyrev said that after meeting with President Mubarak he is now ready to hold talks with the parties concerned in the region and to make efforts to advance the peace process.

He added that he and President Mubarak also discussed the current problem concerning the NPT, noting: We feel that there is growing international policy on this treaty's universalization and indefinite extension. He said: I feel optimistic after my talks with Mr. 'Amr Musa yesterday and my talks with President Mubarak today. There is a feeling that we will find a suitable solution to this problem. He pointed out that he will also discuss this issue with the Israeli side and affirmed that he has a feeling that he will find a suitable solution to the problem.

Kozyrev emphasized in his statements that Egypt supports the peace process and establishing stability in the region.

Kozyrev was asked whether he discussed new ideas or initiatives with President Mubarak to stimulate the Middle East peace process. He replied: Indeed we have our own ideas on the peace tracks and I discussed them with the president and 'Amr Musa. These discussions made me more prepared to pursue my talks in the region, especially since the peace process is going through a crucial phase.

He refused to elaborate on the new Russian ideas to advance peace in the region. He noted that he will also discuss these ideas with the Syrian leadership and said he senses that they are now proceeding on the right course.

Answering a question on Russia's stance on Israel's refusal to join the NPT, he said: As I mentioned before, we support the universalization and indefinite extension of this treaty.

Cabinet Reviews Reports on NPT, 'Terrorism,' Economy

NC2503165695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today. It reviewed the political and economic results of President Husni Mubarak's successful visit to Japan which included the signing of an agreement on economic and investment cooperation.

Information minister Safwat al-Sharif reported that the Cabinet also reviewed the results of President Mubarak's visit to the United Arab Emirates and Oman and the agreement to form a joint committee with Oman to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Sharif said that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa submitted a report on the results of the recent Arab League Council meeting and Egypt's backing for the Arab League and its efforts to restore Arab solidarity. He noted that Egypt backs the notion that the Arab League is the home of all Arabs.

Musa referred to Egypt's firm stance not to accept the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as long as Israel does not make a move toward joining the treaty or engage in formal negotiations to set up a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

The foreign minister noted that the Arab countries share the same grave concern over Israel's nuclear program and agree that it is not possible to accept the NPT's indefinite extension unless there is some progress in the Israeli stance on the issue.

The foreign minister's report referred to the results of the U.S. Vice President's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak, the results of the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries, the meeting between President Mubarak and the Syrian foreign minister, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the agreement of Egyptian and Syrian views on the peace process and the situation in the Arab world.

'Amr Musa also reported on the results of President Mubarak's talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The information minister added that the Cabinet discussed after this a report by the interior minister in which he affirmed that the domestic front is stable and that the Egyptian public supports the political leadership's enlightened actions in this area.

The interior minister's report noted the security forces' efforts to tighten the noose around criminal, terrorist elements and uncover their schemes. He said that several such individuals who tried to infiltrate into the country have been arrested and that foreign and local currency funds and forged documents have been seized.

The Cabinet reaffirmed the continued all-out confrontation with terrorism and all illegal activities.

The Cabinet praised the security agencies' efforts in maintaining public order and stability.

The information minister said that the Cabinet approved the economic and social development plan for fiscal year 1995-1996, being the fourth year of the current five-year plan. He said that Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, submitted a report showing that the fourth year's investments amount to approximately 42 billion pounds. He said the plan seeks to increase domestic production, provide about 500,000 new jobs, and achieve a balance of payments surplus of about 5.4 billion pounds.

Safwat al-Sharif added that the plan is flexible and seeks to usher in the stage of economic recovery previously proclaimed by President Mubarak in line with economic reform requirements, boost production resources, and enhance the Egyptian economy's ability to deal with international developments.

The information minister said that the philosophy behind the economic development plan gives priority to the Egyptian citizen's welfare and constantly seeks to raise living standards and provide more jobs and basic services, notably education and the expansion of facilities and infrastructure in all the governorates.

Al-Sharif noted that Dr. al-Janzuri's report explained that Egyptian economic reform achieved a balance of payments surplus of about 3 billion pounds in 1994-1995 in the wake of repeated previous annual deficits that continued until 1990.

He said that the report showed that economic reform enabled the Egyptian pound to have a stable exchange rate against foreign currencies and reduced inflation.

The information minister said that Dr. al-Janzuri's report outlined the positive results achieved in all economic sectors over the past 13 years since the beginning of the first five-year plan in 1982.

6 Wounded, 1 Civilian Killed in Shooting

NC2903110195 Paris AFP in English 0821 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 29 (AFP)—Gunmen have killed a civilian and wounded six people including three policemen in the village of (?Mahrus) in southern Egypt, the interior ministry said Wednesday [29 March].

Muhammad 'Abdallah Hasan, 50, was killed late Tuesday when unidentified gunmen fired on a group of police and civilians outside a house in the village close to Mallawi, 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo. Three civilians were also wounded.

The shootings raised the death toll in the three-year violent anti-government campaign by Moslem militants to 706.

Labor Party Official on Alliance With Islamists

NC2203142995 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 16-22 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn by Amirah Huwaydi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Huwaydi] Will the Labour Party maintain its alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood in the coming elections?

[Husayn] The formation of coalitions is a common course of action in all multiparty systems. It is only natural for a political party to seek to strengthen its position by coordinating policies with the political forces which share similar views. This coordination becomes even more necessary when a single party occupies the government seats for a long period of time. This is why we forged a coalition with the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987.

At the time, we sought an even broader coalition with other opposition parties but we could not achieve that. We only managed a tripartite alliance with the Brotherhood and the Liberal Party. However, we are currently expanding our efforts to form a united front to face the National Democratic Party.

[Huwaydi] Will this coalition include the Nasirite Party?

[Husayn] Yes, this is a possibility. I have contacted the Nasirists and the outcome was positive. We are planning further meetings in the near future.

[Huwaydi] The Liberal Party seems to be hesitant about maintaining the alliance with Labour and the Brotherhood. What do you think of that?

[Husayn] We have not yet held a formal meeting with the Liberals. But in previous contacts with Mustafa Kamil Murad (leader of the Liberal Party), it was understood that the Liberals have the desire to cooperate and coordinate with us.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Huwaydi] Labour boycotted the last elections in 1990 but will contest the coming elections. Why did it reverse its positions?

[Husayn] Firstly, due to various local and international factors, the government's ability to rig the elections has become more limited. Secondly, in the previous elections we had assumed that our boycott would worry the government but we were mistaken.

In any multi-party system, a boycott by the opposition would mean that the system has become a single-party system. But the government ignored our boycott, went ahead with the elections and formed a parliament that is devoid of an opposition. Since the boycott did not achieve anything, we realised that we should not use this weapon again.

[Huwaydi] Is it true that Labour's popularity derives from the rising Islamist tide and is not related to its political platform?

[Husayn] To begin with, we are part and parcel of the rising Islamist trend in this country. If it can be said that the call for an Islamic solution has the backing of the masses, then it is equally true that we derive our popularity from the support extended by those masses. Any party which responds to the people's aspirations will automatically become popular.

It follows that the Labour Party, as an Islamist force, enjoys wide support because the people have realised that we reflect their aspirations. Besides adopting the Islamic solution, we have a clear programme which explains in specifics what is meant by the Islamic solution.

Moreover, we take clear and daring positions in opposing government policies which we consider to be wrong and harmful. Thus, we are the strongest of the opposition parties because we take daring positions and also because we derive the fundamentals of our policy from Islam.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Breaking Air Embargo

LD2803202995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1305 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the anniversary of the British military evacuation from Libya, at the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Air Base on 28 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers, we congratulate ourselves on this day where we celebrate the passing of a quarter of a century since the liberation of our land from colonial military domination. From this anniversary we draw a useful lesson and an example. Italy occupied this land when the Second World War broke out, and the Italian and German forces were forced to evacuate the Libyan territory. Then the allied forces, the forces of the nations allied against Germany, led by the United States, Britain, and France, came and occupied the Libyan territory after the Italian and German forces evacuated it. They declared that Libya was liberated, but in fact Libya at that moment was occupied once again. It was indeed occupied by the axis forces, but at the end of the Second World War and with the evacuation of the axis forces from it Libya was occupied by the allied forces.

What happened yesterday looks like what is happening today. Yesterday looks like today when it is announced that the Golan Heights must be evacuated by the Israeli troops which must be replaced by U.S. troops or by what is termed UN forces. This is a trick which we had experienced. We the Libyan people, the people with this historic experience, urge the Syrian people not to be tricked. The evacuation of the Israeli forces from the Golan Heights and the handing over of the latter to the U.S. forces is absolutely the same as the evacuation of the Italian forces from Libya and its handing the territory over to the British forces, whose evacuation from our land we are commemorating today, an evacuation that occurred by means of the revolution alone. Had it not been for the revolution, Libya would have continued to be occupied by the allied forces [applause] [passage omitted]

All the scandals of colonialism are perpetrated in the name of the United Nations. The United Nations is today the tool of colonialism and consequently the Libyan people are compelled to sit at the people's congresses and seriously reconsider their membership in the United Nations which has become the sword placed on the neck of the Libyan people and all the other small peoples.

Brothers, the blockade you are now facing and these sanctions imposed on you are in the name of this organization which you have joined and which, thanks to you and small peoples like you, has become an international organization. This organization might revert once again to its original elements, united nations composed of the United States, Britain, France and perhaps Russia against the other peoples. These nations would unite, as they did against Germany, against all the small peoples which would be obliged to set up their own united nations to defend themselves collectively against what is now called the United Nations.

Look brothers at the deception we are facing now. They say that the sanctions are being imposed by the United Nations on Libya. We would like to find these nations which had imposed sanctions on Libya. All the nations are with the Libyan people. All the African peoples are with the Libyan people. The OAU is with the Libyan people. All the Asian peoples are with the Libyan people. The Non-Aligned Movement, which includes more than the two-thirds of the United Nations, is with the Libyan people, the Organization of Islamic Countries, which includes dozens of countries, is with the Libyan people, most of the members of the Security Council are with the Libyan people. What United Nations [words indistinct] are

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

imposing sanctions on the Libyan people? What United Nations have imposed sanctions on the Libyan people when all nations are supporting the Libyan people. They consider it to be right and to be facing an injustice.

Despite all this, we can hear the United States, Britain and France saying that the United Nations imposed sanctions on the Libyan people, a blockade on the Libyan people and an embargo on the Libyan people.

What United Nations? What United Nations? You deceivers, you liars? What United Nations? Are there any united nations other than those nations in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia? These nations are standing with and supporting the Libyan people. They consider the sanctions on Libya forged by the United States, Britain, and France.

Therefore, the United Nations you are talking about is the United States, Britain, and France. When you hear the term, United Nations, it means only the United States, Britain, and France. The hell with them a thousand times, and the hell with the United Nations and its resolutions.

Are there any people among nations; Are there any people on earth who should be concerned about or decide banning Libyans from performing the pilgrimage? Are there any people on earth who would make that decision or endorse that decision? But that decision exists. Who made it, then? It was made by Christian states; the United States, Britain, and France [words indistinct].

In this context, at the coming pilgrimage season—and let our brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Islamic nation hear this—in the coming pilgrimage season, Libyans will take their aircraft and take normal measures which they used to take prior to the air embargo. They will move in their thousands to Mecca by air across Egyptian and Sudanese air spaces; let an air catastrophe take place which the Arab nation will take responsibility for. No one will ban us from God's house and we will never ask for permission for that.

The coming pilgrimage season will witness a real international crisis. The truth will be revealed regarding whether Saudi Arabia is an independent state and has the right to attend to God's house and the tomb of his messenger; it is not an independent state and decisions are imposed by the United States. Saudi Arabia is blameless or it is an independent state and it is banning pilgrims and consequently it has absolutely no right to attend to God' house and the tomb of his messenger. Ka'ba is God's house, not the house of Saudis, Libyans, or others.

This is the tomb of God's messenger and not the tomb of some Saudi or Libyan. In the coming pilgrimage season we shall adopt the necessary measures and disregard the ban imposed by the Christian countries. We shall adopt the normal measures which we used to adopt before. We shall go directly for pilgrimage from Libya using our airplanes of the Libyan Airlines. The countries which the Libyan airplanes will pass must show immediately where they stand as there will be a real problem which could expose them before the Islamic nation.

Saudi Arabia will face a real crisis unprecedented in its history until the brothers in Saudi Arabia know there responsibility in supervising the House of God. Supervising Mecca and Al Madinah is a grave responsibility and not just a source of a continuous supply of tourists. It could be a source of a historic disaster. When the Libyan airplanes fly from Libya for Mecca and land in Jeddah, if Saudi Arabia fires rockets at them then there will be a disaster. The pilgrims would like to die because they will be martyrs if the Arab countries in whose airspace they pass shoot them down or if Saudi Arabia shoot them down by its aircraft and rockets.

The pilgrims are martyrs. We are ready to sacrifice thousands of pilgrims in order not to allow the farce to continue. This is a farce. It is a farce to ban the Libyan people from performing the pilgrimage rites at the orders of America, Britain, and France. The resolutions of the Christian countries are banning the Muslims from performing the pilgrimage rite.

We do not recognize this decision, and the countries that will be crossed by the Libyan planes must brace themselves for this trouble to extricate themselves from it. Either they will shoot the Libyan planes—and we do not care; let the Libyan planes be shot down with hundreds, thousands of pilgrims on board; let Egypt or Sudan shoot them down—or the planes will cross these air spaces safely, and when they are over Saudi Arabia and request landing then let Saudi Arabia prevent them from doing so, let Saudi Arabia shoot them down with missiles. We do not care about this because this is a price to pay to put an end to this falsehood, this farce; a Muslim people prevented from performing the rites of pilgrimage on orders from the United States, Britain, and France. The Ka'ba has now fallen under the protectorate of the United States, Britain, and France. We want to ascertain whether this Ka'ba is under the guardianship of our brothers in Saudi Arabia or the Americans. If the Saudis are free they will not accept the United States' decision on the Ka'ba and if they are not free then it would mean that the Ka'ba is under the control of the United States. We want to ascertain this. This will be made clear at the next pilgrimage season. It will become clear whether the Ka'ba is under the control of Saudi Arabia or the United States.

If the Libyan planes are shot down, if the pilgrims are killed and their planes burned and they are prevented from the pilgrimage then this would mean that the Ka'ba is under the control of the United States, that in such case Saudi Arabia is not independent. If Saudi Arabia was an independent state then it would not be able to prevent the Libyan planes from carrying the pilgrims to the Ka'ba. Saudi Arabia will not be responsible for the way the Libyan planes will be leaving. From today we tell

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

them how the planes will be leaving. The planes will be leaving in the normal way only, the way they used to leave before the air embargo. All the measures will be very normal, completely ignoring the decision of these Christian states. We will inform the Islamic states of this, and they will be witnesses to this. With our courage, our revolutionary spirit, our struggle to liberate this nation and put an end to colonial transgression, we are prepared for a disaster and to offer immense sacrifices so as to expose the real situation, so that the Islamic nation knows who the Ka'ba belongs to, whether to the Muslims or the Americans.

As for those who went and are still going for minor pilgrimage, in last Ramadan, the one before it and other times, they had been subjected to interrogation on the border. These people are harming and weakening the Libyan people's steadfastness, because in going to the Ka'ba they cross twenty countries [as heard] on foot, by cars, on aircraft, from Tunisia, Egypt, and Europe to Saudi Arabia. They go through hardship to get to the Ka'ba.

One, two, or five thousand Libyans may get to the Ka'ba in this way. This may be exploited by people who may say: Look, Libyans are not prevented from pilgrimage. Here is one thousand, here are two thousand Libyans carrying out minor pilgrimage. Are they not Libyans? Yes, they are. So, how could al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people say we are prevented from pilgrimage?

We are prevented from the pilgrimage, because these thousands go through hardships and cross one hundred countries to get to the Ka'ba. We will not give them this card. Jihad is better than pilgrimage. Steadfastness in Libya and exposing these stances are Jihad; they are minor pilgrimage and pilgrimage.

Going to the Ka'ba by crossing one hundred countries would therefore give them a reason to say that Libya is not under the embargo or that the Libyans are not prevented from carrying out minor pilgrimage or pilgrimage under American instructions. Why should we give them this base card. This is lack of awareness and naive worship. There is no reward in it. It can only weaken the stance of Muslims and Libyans and strengthen the Christians' argument.

We must say this to those who may think that they have undergone an injustice in going to a minor pilgrimage. I would not go. Minor pilgrimage and the pilgrimage are in the hands of one country.

Should we be able to go from Libya to Jeddah, then it would be logical. We would go to minor pilgrimage and pilgrimage. But we are going on foot, donkeys and cars to reach aircraft in Jerba [Tunisia], Egypt or Malta, on land and by sea. We do suffer to reach the Ka'ba. Why should we give them this base card. Do we not have any awareness or what? We will not go to pilgrimage. We will not go minor pilgrimage.

We will never go, either to minor pilgrimage or even to the pilgrimage, in the way I have just mentioned. We declare that Libyan aircraft will fly directly from Libya to Mecca and let the Saudis or others block their way. [cheering]

Brothers, today we celebrate the liberation of the Libyan land from the allied forces which occupied Libya just like the U.S. forces are today occupying Arab land. We have said that there will be a similarity between the situation when the Italians left Libya and the situation that arises when the Israelis leave the Arab land. When U.S. forces replace the Israelis in Sinai or the Golan, this means that these lands would remain under occupation just as when Italy left this land and handed it over to British and U.S. forces. [passage omitted]

However, the colonialism, the expulsion of which 25 years ago we are celebrating today, is still trying to return if it finds a weakness in you; if it finds a vacuum or an opportunity.

The states which formed an alliance against Germany are now in an alliance against small peoples, against us; lying in wait to return. NATO is now planning to colonize North Africa militarily. Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco are the first states that will be colonized military by NATO in the next few years, unless something serious takes place in these states—a revolution or those ruling them taking a firm stance against NATO, proving their manliness and defending their and their peoples' honor. Otherwise NATO will be moving forwards a step at a time to occupy North Africa militarily.

Brothers, if the other Arab peoples are oppressed, the Libya people have to be aware. The Libyan people must be prepared, because they are the free people who have to bear responsibility for resistance. You are in the frontline; you are in the frontline of resistance. The responsibility lies with the Libyan people in the free land of Libya.

We are taking this matter seriously. We are aware that colonialism will return militarily; it will not be economic or political colonialism. NATO wants to be the military force that would occupy the world, starting with the Arab world. You have to take the matter seriously, fortify the coastline seriously, train on weapons seriously and a million, two million and more of you must be prepared to engage in battle from the farthest point to the farthest point. The peoples of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, which they have sold, and Palestine which they have sold, and the peoples of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and all the Arab peoples will join you. [passage omitted]

We must not slacken; we must never slacken, brothers. We do not accept this squandering by Arab rulers, selling the Arab nation and its future, and squandering its future generations' right of freedom and independence. [passage omitted]

There are traders among the rulers of the Arab nation, traders who trade with the future of the Arab nation and the Arab peoples' right to a good life on the land of their forefathers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We alert the Arab peoples and tell them that the weapons are here and the warehouses are filled with arms and will be distributed them to the sons of the Arab nation when NATO and Zionism come near our homes. [passage omitted]

Russia's Zhirinovskiy Concludes Visit, Departs

Agreement Reached on Closer Cooperation

LD2803144395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 28 Mar (JANA)—Minutes of the joint meeting between the Secretariat of the People's Congress and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] were signed last night.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Congress and LDPR Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. The signing of the minutes was attended by the brother members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the delegation accompanying the LDPR chairman.

In the minutes the two sides stressed the importance of working toward lifting the unjust sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah through the so-called UN Security Council and for promoting cooperation between the two countries in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

In this respect, the LDPR stressed that it would make efforts to achieve this goal. The minutes also stressed the need to have more meetings and contacts between the two sides so as to discuss the means available for developing cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields.

The brother secretary of the General People's Congress delivered a speech in which he reiterated, on behalf of the secretariat, greetings and thanks to Zhirinovskiy and the delegation accompanying him on this visit, which aims at increasing the ties of friendship between the two countries and at stressing the development of cooperation between them.

He said: We hope that such visits are repeated between the two sides so as to reach the aims we all call for. I express the degree of our satisfaction for the support we heard from the LDPR chairman for us in our cause [words indistinct].

He added that what we heard from the chairman of the party was frank support for us in facing these unjust sanctions and we hope that this will have results in the future. [Words indistinct]

For his part, LDPR leader Zhirinovskiy delivered a speech in which he expressed his deep appreciation and thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: I want to express the extent of my happiness for meeting the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and my admiration and appreciation for his emphasis on the necessity for developing relations between Russia and Libya in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

He added: I have been waiting for this visit for some time and I want to stress that we are prepared to cooperate in all fields.

Zhirinovskiy strongly denounced the unfair measures imposed by the Western countries on the Great Jamahiriyah through the so-called Security Council and went on to say: I will do all I can during the conference scheduled to convene in May in Moscow dedicated to the work to lift the unfair measures, stressing that those sanctions were illegal. I would like to stress, he said, in my name and on behalf of the party members, our absolute support to the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in its just struggle. These people have provided an example of steadfastness in the face of colonialism and imperialist arrogance and hegemony, alluding [words indistinct].

Zhirinovskiy stressed that the visit by him and the accompanying delegation to the Great Jamahiriyah has produced positive results and that what was signed will contribute to the consolidation of the relations of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Russia and serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Statement Issued at End of Visit

LD2803174395 Tripoli JANA in English 1503 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli al Rabie [March] 28 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The following final statement was issued at the conclusion of the visit of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A high-level delegation from the Russian Liberal Democratic Party presided over by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the party chairman, visited the Great Socialist Arab Libyan Peoples Jamahiriyah during the month of al Rabie, 1424.

The friendly Russian delegation was granted a warm reception which reflected the depth of relations linking the two friendly nations.

At the head of the welcoming party was the secretary of the General People's Congress and the members of the [word indistinct] and a number of secretaries of [word indistinct] People's Congresses.

During the visit, Zhirinovskiy and his accompanying delegation were received by the leader of the great al Fateh of September revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi [word indistinct] the guest delegation held several meetings with the secretariat of the General

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

People's Congress which [words indistinct] strengthening all aspects of relationships: political, economic and cultural between the two friendly nations.

There was in depth discussion on various international issues currently facing the world and their repercussions on international peace and security and their impacts on smaller nations. The points of view of the two sides were identical: They believe that the world has entered into an impasse in the light of the so-called new world order, and that the deterioration in all areas, particularly economic, currently facing the world originates mainly from foreign monopolies and attempts to control the nations and exploiting their wealth.

The guest delegation was given elaborate briefings on direct people's democracy practised by the people of the Great Jamahiriyah through People's Committees and Congresses. The guest delegation expressed its great admiration at the practise of direct democracy. The delegation also showed its interest in the civilisational achievements of the Great Jamahiriyah in various areas through the Great al Fateh revolution.

The delegation also emphasised the need for continued civilisational raproachment between Islamic and Christian Orthodox civilisations and the need to foil the plots aimed at creating conflicts between them.

The guest delegation expressed its solidarity and support for the Libyan-Arab people in the light of the suffering they are undergoing due to the unfair sanctions imposed by western states through the Security Council.

The guest delegation also praised the civilised style followed by the Great Jamahiriyah and the wisdom expressed by the great Jamahiriyah in the initiatives proposed towards a peaceful and just settlement of the so-called Lockerbie issue which enjoyed the support of most states and regional organisations.

The Arab Libyan side listened with great attention to the guest delegation's briefing on the role of Liberal Democratic Party in political life in Russian society.

The two sides agreed on joint action to revitalise and rejuvenate the basis of friendship and co-operation between the secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Russian Liberal Democratic Party. In this respect the two sides agreed on the following:

(1) Exchange of meetings and visits between the two sides.

(2) Co-ordination of political stances in international arenas between the two sides.

(3) Exchange of information between the two sides to acquaint each side with the political, economic and social developments.

(4) Organisation of intellectual forums between the intelligensia and the political cadres in both countries.

(5) Action to hold dialogue between the two civilisations: Arab Islamic and Orthodox-Slav.

(6) The two sides work towards deepening their relationship and their contacts to foil counter plots.

The chairman and members of the delegation expressed their thanks and gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality extended to them during their stay in the Great Jamahiriyah.

An invitation was extended by the chairman of the party to the secretary of the General People's Congress of the Great Socialist Arab Libyan People's Jamahiriyah to visit federal Russia. The invitation was accepted and its time will be fixed at a later date.

Zhirinovskiy Departs Tripoli

LD2803130595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 28 Mar—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Morocco

PRC Trade Minister Begins 'Important' Visit

LD2703131895 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Mar. 27 (MAP)—Chinese Minister of External Trade and Economic Cooperation Mrs Wu Yi started Sunday [26 March] an official visit to Morocco heading an important economic delegation.

In an arrival statement, the Chinese minister said she will preside with Moroccan peer Mohamed Alami at the 4th session of the joint economic commission and will examine with Moroccan officials means to develop bilateral economic and trade relations.

Mrs Wu Yi came from Egypt where she concluded with Egyptian authorities an accord providing for the dispatching of Chinese scientific experts.

Better Relations Pledged

LD2703143695 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proceedings of the joint Moroccan-Chinese committee opened this morning at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters. Wu Yi, foreign Trade and economic cooperation minister, headed the Chinese side while the Moroccan side was headed by Minister of External Trade Mohamed Alami. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Chinese minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation started her speech with praise for the economic development that Morocco was experiencing under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II, affirming that the meeting came as a result of the historical friendship between Morocco and China, which compelled the two countries to improve their political and economic relations more than ever. The Chinese Government was particularly willing to consolidate these relations and a good example of this is the repeated high-level visits between the Moroccan and Chinese Governments. [passage omitted]

Two Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2703220995 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is a drive between Morocco and China toward the consolidation of relations, especially in the economic field.

During her visit to Morocco and her meetings with Moroccan officials to underpin Moroccan-Chinese relations, Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi has had talks with Taieb Fassi Fehri, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Together with Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and investments, she has signed two cooperation agreements between Morocco and China.

The first agreement concerns the encouragement and protection of investment. The second agreement is related to the exchange of letters regarding Chinese credits of about 30 million Chinese yen—equivalent to 30 million dirham—to build indoor swimming pools in various parts of the kingdom.

The two agreements fall within the framework of developing bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic field and especially in trade and investment. [passage omitted]

Talks Conclude

LD2803221595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the joint Moroccan-Chinese committee concluded today in Rabat under the chairmanship of Mohamed Alami, minister of external trade, from the Moroccan side; and Mrs. Wu Yi, minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation of the People's Republic of China.

[Unidentified correspondent] The most important feature that marked this fourth session was the signing of two agreements, the exchanging of letters of credit, and the signing of the minutes of the agenda of the Moroccan-Chinese mixed committee to crown the proceedings of this session by highlighting numerous spheres of cooperation with China.

The minister said that great success was achieved during the proceedings of this session, and we are very optimistic about the future cooperation relations between our countries, on the condition that our work is coordinated to implement what we have agreed upon. Cooperation between our two countries includes different spheres. The most important of these are the agricultural sector, which attracted great attention from the two sides, and the spheres of renewable energy sources, bio-gas, maritime fishing, and water equipment.

Concerning the agricultural sector, developing silkworm breeding in Morocco to produce raw silk and the planting of mulberry trees were concentrated upon. In this regard, China presented a financial gift to Morocco of 3 million dirhams.

Minister, Japanese Envoy Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD2803165795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A cooperation agreement between Morocco and the Japanese Government has been signed in Rabat today in connection with carrying out two projects, one of which concerns a drinking water project while the other is connected with roads.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Japanese side by Tokyo's ambassador in Rabat, while Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments, signed it on behalf of the Moroccan side in the presence of Minister of Public Works Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih.

According to this agreement, the Japanese Government will put financial facilities to the tune of 13.048 billion yen at the disposal of the national board of drinking water. [passage omitted]

King on Algerian Crisis, Mideast Peace Process

BR2803134795 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with King Hassan II by Laurent Zecchini and Pierre Cayrol; place and date not given: "I Want Dialogue To Be Opened"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [LE MONDE] Could Morocco offer its good offices in the Algerian conflict, for instance by hosting a conference in Rabat among the different sides?

[Hassan] If the Algerian authorities were to propose that Morocco host such a conference, I would agree because the ruling authorities had asked me to do so. But to suggest that I do so without them asking me to, would, I think, be an intolerable interference in their affairs and I would take care not to do that.

[LE MONDE] Do you want them to make this request to you?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Hassan] Not necessarily, what I want is for dialogue to be opened. A minimum of consensus always emerges from dialogue and it can be expanded. My viewpoint is that there ought to be dialogue. With whom? When? For what purpose? That is an Algerian matter and I do not wish to interfere.

[LE MONDE] Does that amount to saying that the risk of Islamic fundamentalism spreading to Morocco does not exist?

[Hassan] Ideological proximity is not necessarily contagious. It is a mistake to believe that. Reasoning by analogy is a kind of reasoning which history has always rejected. When Germany was Nazi, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Poland were not.

[LE MONDE] Is Morocco immune?

[Hassan] I say that we are immune for the time being and perhaps for years to come. I do not say that boastfully or lightly. Saying that a body is healthy and that it will never be infected would be going too far.

[LE MONDE] Do you not have the feeling that the "moderate" Islam which you advocate is giving ground to fundamentalism?

[Hassan] This fanaticism has a starting date—it began in 1979 (with the Iranian revolution—LE MONDE editor's note). However, Islam has existed for 1,400 years. Why were we tolerant and peaceful for so long, and then, suddenly, that changed with the shah of Iran and a violent Islam emerged? It is because it is not true Islam: Imagine an oil tanker spilling its load at sea. It floats and the depths of the sea remain the same.... Islam remains the same, because what you are talking about is a political phenomenon which appeared in 1979.

[LE MONDE] When you look at the map of Muslim countries, there is a feeling that the spokesmen of a tolerant Islam are heard less and less.

[Hassan] The situations must not be confused. Egypt, for instance, is a country which has always had a kind of fundamentalism, with the Muslim Brotherhood. There is indeed some escalation in Egypt. But I think that the reasons are mainly economic and social. It is difficult to control these with a demographic situation which adds one million individuals each year. Therefore, to look at the map of Islam, two colors must be used: Red for the Islam which exports violent ideologies, and green for the places where Islam has found support and been rooted. It is the color green which is spreading, sometimes with violence, but not through the export of ideologies.

With regard to Algeria, I have not yet seen a newspaper, or pamphlets showing that there is an Islamic fundamentalist ideology based on principles, methodology, or cosmogony. It is pure violence.

[LE MONDE] Often anti-Western....

[Hassan] No, anti-French. In the bilateral sphere, if those who are "outlaws" were one day to take power, I think that Franco- Algerian cooperation in the sphere of economic and other exchanges, would no longer be the same.

[LE MONDE] And if they took power, would they not represent a threat to moderate countries like Morocco or Tunisia?

[Hassan] No, because they would no longer then be led by gangs but by thinkers. No self-respecting thinker who intends to represent a state will decide to declare holy war like that.

[LE MONDE] With regard to the dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel, do you intend to play a role in reviving the peace process?

[Hassan] I do not aspire to do that, I am not in the area. I simply said that an itinerary had been drawn up on the road map—Oslo, Madrid, Washington. Following the Washington agreements, a "flight plan" was drawn up with nagivational landmarks and a cruising speed. I think that given the dangers surrounding this operation—which does not please everybody—the process should be speeded up and perhaps the stages which have been mapped out should be shortened.

So far nobody has given me any indication. If they were to do so, I would not venture forward without ensuring that what I proposed would be accepted by the two sides. In politics, as in agriculture, the seasons are important: You have to wait for things to ripen. I urge the parties involved to sow the seed more rapidly in order to reap the harvest more rapidly, but I cannot do it for them.

[LE MONDE] Is it not time for the Arab countries to lift their boycott of Israel?

[Hassan] I have explained to President Clinton that this is a decision which was made within the Arab League and which must therefore be settled by the Arab League. If, for example, it decided to leave everybody free to do what they wish, many countries would certainly lift the boycott.

[LE MONDE] Egypt is resisting the U.S. pressures on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), holding the view that Israel must first agree to sign the NPT. Do you share this viewpoint?

[Hassan] The Arab League session has just adopted a resolution which leaves each Arab country to make its own decision. Regarding Israel, I think it is time that it changed its "look." The peace process has been started and is irreversible. Israel must no longer be seen as the little state which will always be under attack; that is a negative attitude. Israel must act in accordance with its true religious thinking, by opening up and communicating. The leaders of the old generation may not understand but I am talking to those who will take over.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Unbutton your jackets and breathe! Do not take the attitude of frightened men who are constantly saying: "They will kill me!"

[LE MONDE] Relations between Rabat and Washington have been strengthened, especially in the commercial sphere. This is demonstrated in particular by the agreement which has been reached on the supply of a U.S. thermal power station. Do you not think that Paris might say that Morocco is trying to readjust its alliances at France's expense?

[Hassan] Not at all. Regarding this electricity power station, the invitation to tender was international. I do not understand what happened, but the Franco-Spanish group's proposal was 17 percent higher than the others, and that was insurmountable. We are not trying to move away from France. I would not say that it is France which has moved away from us, but by integrating into Europe it willingly gave up a number of its prerogatives. In the bilateral sphere, it can no longer do what it did just two or three years ago.

Hence the need for us to seek a diversification. As for France, it could not do more even if it wanted to. I have always said that in Morocco there was room for everybody. Some investments should, by their nature, be European or French, and others should be from the other side of the Atlantic.

Party Leader on Algerian Opposition, Filali

MM2703131795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Boucetta Tells AL-HAYAH: Filali Government Will Not Solve Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Moroccan Independence Party leader Mohamed Boucetta has confirmed to AL-HAYAH the possibility of holding a meeting of the Algerian opposition in Morocco. He also said that the government of Dr. Abdellatif Filali "will not solve the political problem in Morocco," demanding parliamentary elections. Boucetta, who was speaking to AL-HAYAH in London, stressed that the Algerian opposition's meeting in Morocco is still just an "idea," and that the meeting could be held on the sidelines of the meetings of Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian parties in Tangier on the anniversary of the meeting held in that city in 1958. [passage omitted]

He cited the Moroccan opposition's refusal to take charge of the cabinet following King Hassan II's offer. Asked about the reformation of the government from the majority parties under Dr. Filali, he said: "That government will not solve the political problem in Morocco. This is because we have not arrived at the formation of a parliamentary or rotation government. We want a fundamental change in parliament's structures. We want (legislative) elections to be held to secure a new distribution of the forces on the political map. Then we would be willing to assume our responsibilities"—a reference to the opposition's agreeing to take charge of the government. He pointed out that he wants to change the system whereby the elections are held—the system classifying the elections into two parts: direct elections and indirect elections. He said that he wants all the elections to be conducted through direct voting.

Asked whether he is demanding that legislative elections be held first, he said: "Yes. We demanded that long ago. We want sound and impartial elections not supervised by the administrative organ or Interior Ministry organs." [passage omitted]

Rights Minister: Violations Not 'Systematic Policy'

LD2903135095 Rabat MAP in English 1303 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Mar.29 (MAP)—Human rights violations are due to individual behavior and not to a systematic policy and the involved persons are answerable before justice, Moroccan Human Rights Minister Mohamed Ziane Tuesday [28 March] said.

The minister, who was speaking at a press conference here, said that besides the promotion of human rights culture his department's major concern is to follow on a daily basis the situation of human rights.

The department plays a role of orientation and control of implementing the gains achieved in matters of human rights, Ziane said. He underlined that the department is determined to settle all pending dossiers in collaboration with NGO's and other competent bodies.

The department deems that the revision of some provisions of the penal procedure and the penal code will favor a better protection of the rights of accused and jailed persons, the minister added, before renewing his department's concern to remain open onto all concerned bodies to promote human rights.

To a question on the criteria adopted by the Moroccan Human Rights Advisory Council (CCDH) to draw the list of political detainees who benefitted from the general amnesty, Ziane said these criteria were set in reference to the norms of the European parliament. These detainees along with those who committed acts related to 'the painful events that occurred in Morocco' benefitted from a general amnesty, he said, adding that his department makes efforts to rehabilitate the pardoned people.

As to women's rights in Morocco, the minister said the most chronic problem is that of Moroccan women detained by the 'Polisario' in the camps of Lahmada. This situation should be a top priority for all organizations endeavoring for the promotion of women's rights in Morocco, said Ziane, who added that the International Conference on Women to be held next September in Beijing should be an opportunity to foster the awareness of the international public opinion on the painful fate of Moroccan women sequestered in the Lahmada camps.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sudan

Rebels Claim Government Bombing Despite Cease-Fire

AB2803120395 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, March 28 (AFP)—The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) has claimed that the Sudanese government has resumed bombing of towns in southern Sudan despite its declaration of a two-month ceasefire on Monday [27 March].

In a statement released here, SSIA spokesman D.K. Mathews said that the junta backed by the National Islamic Front (NIF) "had begun bombarding the towns of Waat and Malual Garhouth at 9.00 A.M. (0600 GMT) on Tuesday".

The two towns currently hold thousands of refugees and displaced people from recent fighting between Sudanese government forces and the southern Sudanese rebel factions in the surrounding areas.

'Armed Group' Attacks Land Registration Office

EA0803193095 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 8 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An armed group of citizens had attacked on Tuesday [7 March] the land registration office at Umm Baddah, 14th Quarter, in Omdurman causing heavy damage after burning legal and official documents at the registration office. [Words indistinct] by popular committee members at the site.

Security sources at the area said that security was restored and the culprits have been detained. The source said an investigation has been conducted on the incident and [words indistinct].

[London BBC World Service in English at 1515 GMT on 8 March in the "Focus on Africa" program reports: "Four houses belonging to members of the local authority in the Mbara area were also burned to the ground in an attack which seems to have been triggered by residents' anger that their shanty town has been demolished and may be forced to relocate.

["The demolition was part of the government's drive to get rid of these illegal townships, which they claim are dirty and squalid, and move people to areas where they can have access to running water, schools, and electricity. Many of those who are supposed to benefit from the scheme are deeply unhappy about the plan, however, and have been resisting the action, in this case violently."]

President Receives Message From Zairian Counterpart

EA2403215995 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, received a handwritten message from the Zairian president, Mobutu Sese Seko, dealing with consolidation of the existing relations between the two countries in all fields. General al-Bashir received, at the general command, Mr. (Nabanda Zango), adviser of the Zairian president, who arrived in Khartoum yesterday afternoon on a two-day official visit.

The Zairian envoy said that he discussed with General al-Bashir the progress of the developing relations between the two countries. He said there are border security problems but these are not the responsibility of the two countries, adding that coordination is underway between the two parties to secure the border areas between them. The Zairian president's adviser further said he has discussed with his Sudanese counterpart, Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, the security issues of concern to the two countries, pointing out that they are coordinating to face any security challenge on the two countries' borders.

The adviser of the Zairian president, Mr. (Nabanda Zango), who arrived Khartoum yesterday to deliver the message to General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir from President Mobutu Sese Seko, ended his two-day visit to Khartoum this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Prior to departure and at the VIP lounge at Khartoum airport, he made a statement to the television in which he affirmed that his visit and meeting with the president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, and his counterpart, Bakri Hasan Salih, was positive, and dismissed that there are any conflicts or problems between the two countries. He said: Our viewpoints were completely identical and aimd at developing and promoting the relations between the two countries.

He asserted that the stand of the state of Zaire with Sudan in its call for uniting the African ranks to face the challenges facing the continent that are (?represented by) poverty and death. [sentence as heard] He said that the meeting of the two presidents in Copenhagen is a confirmation of that.

President Meets Cuban Envoy, Stresses Cooperation

EA2903110095 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA)—Establishment of Sudanese-Cuban relations will pave the way for joint cooperation and fixed friendship ties linking the peoples in the two countries, said President al-Bashir while receiving Cuba's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Sudan.

Al-Bashir stressed Sudan's cooperation with Cuba to confront the imperialist acts against the two countries under the pretext of the alleged human rights abuses.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Cuban diplomat, on his part, expressed willingness to boost ties with Sudan.

Vice President Commends Iraqi Achievements

EA2403121595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA)—The vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, commended achievements made by Iraq in industrial, agricultural and irrigation fields, describing them as message [as received] for lifting the blockade.

He made the remarks while meeting, Wednesday [22 March] at the Republican Palace, the visiting Iraqi delegation headed by advisor at the presidency Adnan al-Ani. Al-Zubayr further said relations between Iraqi and Sudanese peoples are strong, emphasizing Sudan's constant stance with Iraq. He called for exploitation of Sudanese resources and Iraqi experience for developing the two countries, stressing that the blockade has been useful to Iraq in making Iraqi people creative.

Adnan al-Ani explained that the meeting tackled bilateral relations and exchanging experiences for joint cooperation. The advisor went on enumerating the great Iraqi achievements in spite of difficult circumstances such as opening Saddam's tower and buliding bridges.

Foreign Minister Taha on Garang, Arab League

MM2903085595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Allam] What is your impression of the Arab League Council's meetings which you attended as foreign minister of Sudan for the first time? Do you believe that they, their resolutions, and their debates rose to the occasion?

[Taha] The league has made some achievements, but it has often fallen below the level of aspirations. The aim we pledged to achieve is for the next stage to be more positive and to express the Arab nation's aspirations. The resolutions adopted express the nature of the present stage and can be considered resolutions of the minimum consensus in view of the serious challenges facing the Arab nation.

Entering the international stage to address an issue such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty required an Arab position containing this minimum so as to deal with the nuclear issue on the basis of a clear and agreed view—which in itself is an indication of a healthy performance that can be scheduled in the future. [passage omitted]

['Allam] According to the rules of negotiation, to achieve a settlement both sides have to make concessions. What concessions can Sudan make, or what concessions do you believe Egypt should make to restore relations to their normal status?

[Taha] It is not to do with concessions. The matter is based on objectively viewing the nature of the relationship, identifying existing problems, and drawing up criteria to settle them. Whatever these criteria, the outcome of the objective view of these issues is acceptable to us. [passage omitted]

['Allam] Are recent contacts with Arab states and the United States expected to produce positive results?

[Taha] True, Sudan does not have the ability—in terms of political weight—to influence what is happening around us. But we have a clear view. This is why our relations with many Western states are based on intellectual dialogue in order to address this view. We appreciate that this view might be controversial, but it proceeds from fixed principles and self-confidence. The dialogue will lead to some results which will secure a positive atmosphere for dealings. We maintain a constant and regular dialogue with some Western states in Khartoum. And I embark next month on a tour of a number of Western states, including Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, and Romania. It will be extended to include the United States, but not now, since this depends on the nature of the dialogue being conducted with U.S. representatives in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

['Allam] Did you, through the dialogues, find contradictions among the positions of the European states and between these positions and the U.S. position?

[Taha] Yes, that contradiction exists. This is why the clarification of the facts has begun to bear fruit. Thus it can be said that there are varied degrees of reactions from the Western states. The states of Western Europe understand our positions differently from the United States. And our dialogue is continuing with Italy, France, Germany, the states I am going to visit next month, and even with the Vatican. It has become clear that we can arrive at practical formulas for handling some aspects with these states while political differences continue to exist.

['Allam] Do you believe that the call by John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, for launching urban warfare [harb al-mudun] is probably attributable to the fact that he has sensed support from opposition groups or a foreign quarter after his failure to impose a certain reality?

[Taha] That is the real interpretation. Garang is a toy in the hands of parties seeking to keep Sudan's image distorted. He does not represent any political program for dealing with any of the issues on the Sudanese scene. He is moving from one issue to another, namely the unity issue and the separation issue, easily and without any program. And he has lost his military influence, hence his ability to stick to a unified view. The urban warfare method is a desperate method which reflects the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

failure and frustration that has afflicted also the northern opposition and the forces supporting all these opposition groups.

['Allam] Can Garang's call be attributable to the backtracking of some neighboring states on their commitments in terms of not allowing their territory to be used as a base to threaten Sudan's security?

[Taha] Some states are trying to exploit opposition groups and implicate them in their political conflicts with Sudan. But whatever the motives, Garang and the groups supporting him do not have the ability to cause a real change in the course of events.

Opposition Leader on Future 'Union' With Egypt

MM1703141595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Democratic Unionist Party Central Committee held its first meeting recently. Why was the meeting held, and what are its results?

[Al-Mirghani] That meeting was held far from the homeland. Current exceptional circumstances determine where and when conferences are held. If circumstances were normal, and if what happened, namely the National [Islamic] Front's conspiracy and military coup, had not happened, we would have held the party's general conference long ago. [passage omitted]

The conference defined the relationship between those inside the country and those abroad, and organizational structures and working programs were endorsed for the next stage. And the party's provisional constitution was approved. The conference also reviewed the political agreements concluded by the party in the past period, first and foremost the consensus on the need to step up the struggle until the tyrannical regime has been toppled.

[Daw-al-Na'im] You appealed to those who stayed away from the party to return to its ranks, provided they work to topple al-Bashir's government. What have been the reactions, and what mechanism will be used to implement the plan?

[Al-Mirghani] We made that appeal proceeding from our historic and national responsibility. It was made out of respect for our brothers who stayed away from the party for one reason or another and out of our belief that efforts should be pooled and our brothers should return to their party to assume their responsibility. They will find our hearts and minds open to them and our hands extended to them. [passage omitted]

[Daw-al-Na'im] In your speech at the conference you spoke about a strong relationship with Egypt and the hope of achieving unity between Sudan and Egypt. What program will be used to achieve it, and what road will be used to implement it? Merger or confederation? Does this conflict with the issue of Sudan's unity, especially as there is a great ethnic and cultural diversity?

[Al-Mirghani] In the speech with which I opened the Central Committee's proceedings I urged the need to organize conditions in the Nile valley, because that bolsters Sudan's unity. And because the appeal is liable to develop and lead to a form of union. I do not believe that it conflicts with Sudan's unity. On the contrary, it bolsters and strengthens this unity. And it is the way to achieve stability, progress, and development.

In fact I urge the need to secure a formula that guarantees cooperation or integration among Sudan, Egypt, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Because the historic ties binding these three states prompt such a formula, especially at this historic stage, which is witnessing the formation of regional blocs, such as the EU, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Maghreb Union, and so on. Without doubt the ties binding Sudan and Egypt and those binding them to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia make cooperation and integration among them a necessity prompted by the nature of this age. [passage omitted]

[Daw-al-Na'im] There was recently talk of a plan for reconciliation with the regime, when you in the past strongly rejected that orientation. Why have the contacts been made, and what are the chances of achieving a settlement to the Sudanese problem?

[Al-Mirghani] I would like first to point out that we have since the early days of the front's coup realized that there can be no coexistence with that regime. We said that it is an evil regime, and that its evil would not be limited to Sudan, but would affect everyone. And what we expected was later proved right, and everyone ascertained the regime's aggressive nature. Thus we can say that that question should be addressed to the tyrannical regime in Sudan, not to us. Because we have chosen the road of struggle, and we will not abandon it. We have not knocked on the regime's doors, nor will we do so. We will confront it. I believe that the front's regime is not now—nor has it ever been—qualified to engage in national reconciliation. And all that it says about national reconciliation or contacts with some oppositionists from time to time is nothing but an attempt to play for time and an exposed political maneuver. [passage omitted]

Peace Council Delegation Reports on Kenyan Visit

EA2203201995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, this morning met Lino Rol Deng, secretary general of the Higher Peace Council, in his office at the Republican Palace. Mr. Lino said he briefed Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr on the outcome of the council delegation's visit to Kenya.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said the aim of the visit was to brief the Kenyan Government on Sudan's efforts to restore peace in the country.

The Higher Peace Council secretary general reiterated Sudan's commitment to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative under the chairmanship of President Daniel arap Moi. Mr. Lino added that he briefed the Nairobi officials on the role that the Higher Peace Council could play in achieving peace from within.

His Excellency announced that the delegation contacted several factional leaders of the rebellion in Nairobi, and discussed with them the new changes taking place in the country. During the contacts, the delegation stressed the need to tackle the southern problem within the framework of an internally agreed upon federalism. Lino Rol Deng said the Higher Peace Council delegation sensed that there is an increasing desire for peace within the rebel movement. His Excellency called on all factions of the movement to be more realistic in their attitude to the issue of peace.

He said it was agreed that a number of movements will visit the country and meet officials to acquaint themselves with the government's efforts to bring about peace. His Excellency expressed the hope that dialogue and cooperation will continue between the government and the rebels so as to end the war.

Extradition Treaty With Ethiopia Confirmed

EA2203221095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] State minister for foreign affairs Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din reaffirmed Sudan's commitment to the bilateral agreement concluded with Ethiopia in 1966 on extradition of criminals as well as its commitment to national law on extradition of criminals issued in (?1967).

Dr. Salah al-Din speaking at the regular Foreign Ministry's press briefing, said that the hijackers of the Ethiopian airliner had committed an irrational act that had incriminated them. The state minister expressed the government's satisfaction over its handling of the hijacking incident.

Meanwhile, Dr. Salah al-Din said Sudan has agreed to participate in a summit meeting of IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] states which was originally scheduled for 24 March but was postponed to a later date, explaining that the summit was proposed by the U.S. President Bill Clinton, for working out a program for self-sufficiency in the Horn of Africa area. Sudan agreed to attend the summit as it is the most qualified country to contribute to the program adding that the summit would also avail an opportunity to explain Sudan's experience in this regard.

Tunisia

Source Denies Reports of Operations in Algeria

MM2703151295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tunisia: Patrols in Algeria Are Media Falsifications By Fundamentalist Circles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-HAYAH—Tunisia has categorically denied what "Tunisian and Algerian sources linked with Islamists said, namely that patrols from its border guard are carrying out military tasks in East Algeria without any objection from the Algerian authorities."

A Tunisian informational source has said that what AL-HAYAH published last Friday is "false allegations that have nothing to do with reality." They said that "these allegations fall within the framework of a new media falsification maneuver supported by extremist fundamentalist circles and inevitably aimed at confusing public opinion by unjustly pushing Tunisia into the internal affairs of a neighboring fraternal country. Tunisia, which has always been keen to respect the sovereignty of states, is not linked in any way, shape, or form to what is happening on Algerian territory."

Ben Ali Expresses Anxiety Over Burundi Situation

LD2803160895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text]—The official spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic said that His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chairman of the OAU, was following with great concern the resumption of violence in Burundi in a way which threatens its stability and unity and exposes the civilian population to dangers and pushes them to exodus.

While His Excellency expresses his deep regret over this situation in this fraternal African country, he reiterates the call to all the sides concerned in Burundi to wisdom and self-restraint, so as to consolidate the process of security and concord drawn by the agreement on ruling signed between them. This agreement is the best means to get Burundi out of the circle of violence, achieve national reconciliation, and devote itself to national construction.

His Excellency the president reemphasized that Tunisia would not spare any effort on the African and international levels for continuing to help Burundi overcome its ordeal. Tunisia calls all the sides concerned, particularly the African ones, to intensify efforts so as to put an end to this tragedy.

President, Spanish Defense Minister Meet

LD2903091295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday received the Spanish Defense Minister

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Julian Garcia Vargas, who said that he was honored to have had the opportunity to meet the head of state.

He said that the talks focused on relations between Tunisia and Spain, which were progressing very satisfactorily at political and economic levels. He expressed his country's satisfaction at the development of relations,which would be culminated at the end of this year with the signing of a friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation accord between the two countries. He described the accord as the best culmination of the excellent drive in bilateral relations in recent years. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

GCC Finance Ministers Conclude Meeting

LD2803202895 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, March 28, SPA—Finance and national economy ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded their 38th meeting at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh today.

In a press statement after the meeting, Bahraini Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim, who chaired it, said the meeting dealt with custom tarrifs of the GCC states for the foreign countries, customs fees and laws as well as customs centers in the GCC states and permission to the GCC citizens to seek loans from banks and governmental funds and institutions.

He said the ministers also discussed means of linking money teller-machines in the GCC states and allowing the GCC citizens to pursue educational and other activities in the member states.

It also decided to implement resolutions adopted by the Higher Council during its 15th session which focused on enhancing economic cooperation in the framework of the unified GCC economic accord.

The Bahraini finance and national economy minister said the Higher Council's previous session in Bahrain had adopted several resolutions including a request to the Economic and Financial Cooperation Committee to finalise and discuss issues related to endorsement of economic and financial cooperation in association with the labour and social affairs ministers on the prospects of available opportunities to facilitate transfer and organization of the national manpower and removal of obstacles in this context.

He said several issues pertaining to trade exchanges between the gcc states also came up for discussion in line with the desire of the gcc finance and trade ministers.

The minister said the issue of customs was reviewed, adding that a technical committee is already discussing this issue. "Moreover, the committee has classified about 600 products in this context," he said.

He said the meeting discussed a memorandum presented to it by heads of the GCC monetary agencies and central banks, which dealt with the banking activities in the GCC states.

The ministers also reviewed the outcome of discussions conducted with international economic groups and a number of countries.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Bahrain

Controversy Reported Over Chief of Security

95LH0098A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 13 Feb 95 p 5

[Article from London: "British Foreign Office Asked Him to Resign. Opposition Pressures Remove Henderson As Bahrain Army Commander"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fortified by Gulf opposition figures residing in the United Kingdom, British pressures on the government of John Major to take a position concerning the Bahraini security chief, the British citizen Ian Henderson, have reached their pinnacle after direct accusations against him for violations of human rights in Bahrain "by torturing detainees and deporting them from their country."

The British human rights advocate, Lord Avebury, directed a harshly worded condemnation to the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, for "ignoring the presence of a British citizen (Henderson) in a high position at the head of another country's (Bahrain's) security organs which will provide conclusive proof of our interference in the internal affairs of foreign countries." Lord Avebury stated that the British colonial law itself, which came into effect in 1870, "prohibits British nationals from joining the ranks of other armies and from receiving military, political, or managerial posts abroad," as well as "prohibiting British citizens from serving in the ranks of foreign security forces."

The campaign against Henderson intensified after he, as chief of Bahraini security, exiled seven Bahraini religious leaders from their country after the explosion of the recent events and after being accused by those of being behind the death of six citizens in Manamah and the detention of 2,000. Of those, only 300 have been released so far.

The Bahraini opposition in London and other countries sent documents to his lordship, the British human rights advocate, confirming the involvement of Henderson in torture operations as well as his giving a free hand to his 20 English deputies to assault unarmed citizens, their holy places, traditions, and livelihood. They stated that he brought in 20 British subjects, former mercenaries some of whom worked with him in Kenya against the mutinous men of the Mau Mau in the fifties, and in other places in Africa. He arrived in Bahrain in 1966 after British intelligence appointed him chief of its station there following a Bahraini popular revolt against the British presence in the island in 1965.

At a later date, the governing family appointed him chief of general security in charge of Bahraini intelligence and the people with security responsibility for prisons, border guards, and even traffic police.

In spite of the denial by the British officials of the existence of any relationship between Major's government, or the one that preceded it, and Henderson, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their assertion that the ruling family in Bahrain has contracted with him on a personal basis and consequently, they are "unable to interfere in this matter." However, the information of Al-MUHARRIR confirms that the British Foreign Office had indicated to the Bahraini security chief that he needed to resign from his position and return to his country with his English deputies because "his position there is no longer tenable and is causing great embarrassment for Her Majesty's government, harming its image abroad."

The opposition asked human rights committees to investigate the fate of 1987 detainees in Bahrain who have not been heard from, "and for the cessation of the deportations of Bahraini citizens from their countries, so that they may be tried in open court there in order to learn what is taking place in the dungeons of Henderson and his aids, both Englishmen and local intelligence officers."

AL-MUHARRIR'S information indicates that Henderson has in fact purchased a home lately in one of the capital's suburbs. Advertisements appeared in some British newspapers seeking a servant and a maid to keep house for him in expectation of his imminent return!

Kuwait

Ekeus: Iraq's Answers on Biological Arms 'Unconvincing'

LD2803193995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Mar (KUNA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the committee in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, has said that Iraq has failed to provide convincing answers in connection with the destiny of materials which could be used to manufacture biological weapons.

Ekeus, who was addressing a news conference, mentioned that "the Iraqis admit that they have imported around 32 tonnes of materials used to produce bacteria for peaceful purposes, but which could be used at the same time to produce biological weapons, classified as weapons of mass destruction."

He said that "the destiny of 17 tonnes of these materials is unknown, and that the Iraqis have not provided information about them." He pointed out that "a country like Iraq does not need more than 100 kg of these materials annually, except that they have imported quantities which exceed their needs without an obvious reason."

He said that he discussed the destiny of the materials with Iraqi officials, and they told him that they were lost during the uprising in numerous Iraqi regions in the aftermath of the war to liberate Kuwait in 1991.

Ekeus expressed his dissatisfaction at Iraq's failure to provide accurate information on the materials. He pointed out that the Iraqis announced that they have in the past carried out experiments on specific types of bacteria, considered, from the classical point of view, as biological weapons.

Ekeus said that the information obtained will be assessed by the the committees' experts, in addition to any explanation on this subject provided by Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Ekeus said: With the exception of biological weapons, a great deal has been achieved with regard to chemical and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. [passage omitted]

Oman

Naval Commander Holds Talks With Iranian Envoy

LD2803112495 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 28, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Oman conferred with the Omani Navy commander Tuesday [28 March] on bilateral ties and other issues of mutual interest, in Muscat Tuesday.

In the meeting, the Iranian Ambassador Siyavash Zargar Ya'qubi and Omani Navy commander, Admiral Shahab Bin-Tariq al-Sa'id called for the expansion of mutural cooperation in various fields.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Receives Yemeni-Saudi Memo Ratification Instrument

JN2703194495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, our country's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, today handed Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal the instrument of ratification and the legal certificate [al-shahadah al-qanuniyah] of the memorandum of understanding signed by both fraternal countries late in the month of Ramadan [February].

This was announced when the Saudi foreign minister received the brother ambassador in Riyadh. During the meeting, they reviewed the memorandum of understanding, future joint actions, and various aspects of cooperation. It is expected that such cooperation will be crowned with success and will bring good and welfare to both sisterly peoples and countries. It is also expected to be a model of fraternal relations.

Fahd Presides Over Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2703211295 Riyadh SPA in English 1944 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, March 27, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly regular session held by the Council of Ministers at al-Yamama palace here today.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Following the meeting, Muhammed Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state, cabinet member and acting information minister told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) that at the outset of the meeting, King Fahd briefed the cabinet on the telephone call he received from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih during which they emphasized the depth of the bilateral relations between the two countries and their keen interest on continuation of the meeting of the joint committees formed in the aftermath of the signature of the memorandum of understanding in Makkah last month.

King Fahd also explained to the cabinet the nature of the telephone call he received last week from the U.S. President Bill Clinton and his talks in Riyadh with the Vice President Albert Al Gore who visited the kingdom last Wednesday [22 March].

King Fahd cited with appreciation the remarks made by President Clinton during the telephone conversation on the strong ties linking between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which were based on mutual respect and common interests that would serve the bilateral cooperation, Arab and Islamic issues as well including the current peace process in the Middle East and how to accelerate it.

King Fahd also thanked President Clinton for showing determination to support progress of the Middle East peace process with the aim of establishing peace and stability in the region and reinforcement of the Palestinian National Authority.

King Fahd reaffirmed the constant efforts being made by the kingdom to realize peace and stability in the region and in the entire world with close cooperation with brotherly and friendly nations at the international forums.

Mas'ud said the cabinet then listened to a report presented by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the outcome of the 54th session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council which was held in Riyadh last Sunday and Monday [19 and 20 March] which, he said, would certainly reinforce cooperation between the member states on various security and economic fields. Prince Sa'ud also made the cabinet acquainted to the results of the 103 session held by the Arab League Ministerial Council in Cairo last Thursday and highlighted the resolutions adopted by the meeting with the aim of serving the best interests of the Arab nation and enhancing the international efforts towards various economic and security issues.

The cabinet reviewed arrangements made by the concerned bodies in preparation for the upcoming hajj season and the efforts being made to provide comfortable services for pilgrims. It saw the new expansion project added to the holy sites in Mina as per directives of King Fahd to facilitate the hajj mission and provide more comfortable and peaceful climate for pilgrims.

Minister Mas'ud added that the cabinet also reviewed a number of domestic items on the agenda and made suitable decisions on them.

Among the most important resolutions adopted by today's meeting, he said, is the cabinet approval on the security agreement between the GCC states and a royal decree has been issued accordingly.

The cabinet also ratified the system of the protected areas of the wildlife and a royal decree was prepared on the matter.

It also approved appointments to the 15th and 14th grades at the customs department and the Ministry of Interior.

Reportage on French Defense Minister's Visit

Arrives in Riyadh

LD2703200295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] French Defense Minister Francois Leotard arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the Riyadh military airport by 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; Staff Maj-Gen 'Atiyah al-Zahrani, commander of the Riyadh military base; the French ambassador to the Kingdom, and a number of armed forces officers at the base.

Meets Prince Sultan, Departs

LD2803085995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, at his palace in al-'Aziziyah this evening received French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 0752 GMT on 28 March, in a Riyadh-datelined report, adds: "His Excellency Francois Leotard, the French defense minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh this morning."]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Official: U.S. Case Can Be Solved Diplomatically

JN2803183995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasib 'Arif, a prominent member of the Iraqi National Assembly and rapporteur of the Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, has said that there are diplomatic means to solving the issue of the two Americans who were convicted last Saturday [18 March] for their illegal entry into Iraq. He said that a solution cannot be obtained by threats, pointing out that the issue has occupied more room than it is actually worth. It is an ordinary problem which occurs thousands of times among nations, he added, noting that it does not require this diplomatic clamor which the U.S. Administration has raised.

PRC, Russia, France Against U.S.-UK Resolution

NC2903063495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2125 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 28 Mar (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the United Nations has learned from diplomatic sources that permanent member states of the Security Council have asked the United States and Britain to withdraw their draft resolution.

The same sources told INA this morning that Russia, China, and France asked the United States and Britain to withdraw their draft resolution during a meeting among representatives of the five member states yesterday. The sources added that the countries opposing the U.S. draft resolution believe it will not ease the human suffering in Iraq.

Russia, China, and France, which enjoy the support of the majority of Security Council members, seek to present a draft resolution based on implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 when Rolf Ekeus, the head of the special commission, submits his report on 10 April.

Paragraph 22 provides for lifting the ban on Iraq's oil and other exports as well as Iraqi financial exchanges once Section C of Resolution 687 concerning weapons is implemented.

INA's correspondent has learned from other sources that some Security Council member states' Foreign Ministries have, in the past few days, summoned the ambassadors of the United States and Britain to their capitals. Using strong terms, they informed them of their opposition to the U.S.-British draft resolution, which they viewed as an "attempt to consecrate the partitioning of Iraq and a failure to tackle human suffering seriously."

Daily Terms Proposal 'Evil Attempt'

JN2903094995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH said the new U.S. proposal is an evil attempt to circumvent the growing world conviction of the need to lift the embargo imposed against Iraq after it has fulfilled its commitments toward the UN Security Council.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The U.S. proposal disregards the national interests of Russia and France, which dictate an immediate end to the oil and commercial embargo imposed on Iraq. The plan also aims to foil any draft resolutions aiming to completely lift the Iraq embargo.

The papers stresses that the UN Security Council must respect its resolutions, which were formulated with contributions from the United States, and to implement, quickly and unconditionally, Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for a complete lifting of the oil embargo.

The paper stresses that the cohesive national Iraqi position and Iraq's firm adherence to its rights, which are recognized by international legitimacy, gives the international position calling for ending the embargo more momentum and will also make this international position more cohesive in the UN Security Council after Rolf Ekeus presents his report.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The United States now has very little room to maneuver. The White House has no alternative but to yield to the Iraqi rights or prepare for an inevitable confrontation between U.S. interests and the interests of scores of other countries, with which Washington is still dealing with contempt.

Analyst Claims U.S. Wants To 'Control' Region

JN2603114595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi political analyst has emphasized that the U.S. promises of ensuring protection to the Arab Gulf states is a banner that hides an imperialist strategy to colonize the region and control its economic and military policies.

In an article published in AL-QADISIYAH today, 'Adnan Ni'mah Salman said that the tours of Al Gore, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright, and lastly William Perry only demonstrate U.S. desires and interests, in the first place, and then come the interests of the rulers who want to stay in power and to be protected against the danger of being removed.

He added that the tours of the Arab Gulf states and the coordination with Husni Mubarak, the broker of settlements and aggression against Iraq, emphasizes the fact that the present U.S. policy aims to entrench its presence strongly on the Arab land to protect the Zionist interests first, and set up permanent military bases in the Arab Gulf states. These bases aim to protect the U.S. interests and collaborators and absorb the resources of the Arabs and perpetuate the U.S.-Zionist aggression.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Salman emphasized that the statements made by U.S. officials wherever they go in the Gulf states are a malicious attempt to incite and fuel hatred of the hired rulers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and others against Iraq—people and leadership.

He said that what confirms the falsehood of their foolish and hollow allegations is the announcement by President Saddam Husayn of the sincere desire to restore Arab unity, improve inter-Arab relations, and overcome all that may obstruct this rapprochement with the aim of working out an Arab understanding that serves the present and strengthens its pillars in order to have a better Arab future.

Salman warned those deceived by the U.S. promises, and recalled the fate of previous agents who counted on these promises in the past and kept the fate of their peoples hostage to Washington, which abandoned them in the service of its own interests and replaced them by new faces, as it did with [former Egyptian President Anwar] Sadat and Husni.

Leadership Receives 'Positive Signs' on Blockade

JN2803163895 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 27 Mar 95 p 6

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—A Jordanian official, who met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who made a stopover in Amman last week on his way to Baghdad from New York, said that the Iraqi leadership has received "positive signs" on the possibility of lifting the international blockade imposed on Iraq since 1990, and that 'Aziz is optimistic that the month of May will be a turning point in this regard. He said that the UN Security Council might decide to lift the blockade partially. He added: Even if practical measures are not taken, important steps toward lifting the blockade will be taken before the end of this year.

Asked by AL-WASAT about the international developments behind such an expected change in the stands of the Western states in particular, the Jordanian official said: "Ask the French, because I believe only they have the definitive answer."

Another Jordanian official noted that a number of Arab states, including Jordan, have, for two months, been participating in an international media campaign calling for alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering. He also spoke about the Iraqi deputy prime minister's meeting with Pope John Paul II, "which is considered a big thing, particularly in Europe."

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti last week called for lifting or easing the blockade on Iraq, focusing on the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade. He also called for "rewarding Iraq because it has fulfilled many of its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions and demands."

He said that all the Iraqi officials with whom he met recently, including Tariq 'Aziz, have informed him of their country's determination to cooperate with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission entrusted with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and their willingness to implement what remains of Ekeus' demands.

Jordan's call for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq is part of other international and Arab efforts. A Jordanian politician believes there are important reasons behind these efforts, the most important of which are:

—The developments in the peace process, the progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, and the need for Iraq's return to the international community basically before any peace treaty between Syria and Israel.

—The military developments in northern Iraq where Kurdish infighting is raging, and the Turkish forces' entry into Iraqi territory, along with the Iranian and Turkish emphasis that they respect Iraq's territorial integrity.

—The signs of relaxation in Arab relations, the call for reconciliation, and the discussion on amending the Arab League Charter, particularly regarding the issue of voting on its resolutions.

—The unsettled world economy and the need for sound economic relations between East and West to avoid real setbacks in the international economy.

—Pressure by leading Western companies on their governments to return to the Iraqi market after a five-year suspension.

Baghdad 'Assassination Group' To Counter 'Uprising'

NC2803153295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our sources, an assassination group consisting of members of the ruling party has left for Mosul to carry out crimes against Iraqi Army officers and tribal chiefs in case there is a security eruption in the city.

The sources said that the regime has housed the group members in the Ashur Hotel and the Ninawa Hotel, two of the city's largest. The sources said that some ruling party members and mercenaries have been summoned from Mosul [Ninawa] Governorate towns and sent to al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah to guard against the possible eruption of a popular uprising in those towns.

SAIRI Leader Condemns Turkish 'Assault'

LD2803112395 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim on Tuesday condemned the assault of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Turkish Army on northern Iraq. Ayatollah Hakim in an interview broadcast on the Voice of Revolutionary Iraq radio radio interview [as received] termed the Turkish Army's attack on northern Iraq as a "blatant violation of Iraq's national sovereignty."

According to the SAIRI's publicity center, Hakim added "We believe that the Turkish Army has embarked on such a measure in a bid to put pressure on our Kurdish brothers in northern Iraq and force the Iraqi nation to surrender to the Baghdad regime."

The ayatollah stressed "foreign forces must stop suppressing the Iraqi nation because the objective behind such actions is to keep the Iraqi people in a large prison created by Saddam's regime."

KDP Official on Recent Fighting, Turkish Moves

JN2803211495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the KDP Political Bureau, by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Birru] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] yesterday launched an offensive in the suburbs of the city of Irbil, but the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] said they repelled the attack. What happened in Irbil today?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yesterday's clash between our party and the PUK was not an attack on Irbil. We do not attack our capital and convert its streets into battlefields. The PUK concentrated on striking our forces in Banjwin. We had to remind the PUK that they cannot stay in Irbil unharmed. Therefore, this clash was designed to make them return to their senses and ease the pressure on our forces in Banjwin and Halabjah. The front was largely peaceful today. [passage omitted]

[Birru] The PUK has accused you of cooperating with the Turkish forces that entered Iraqi territory a week ago to pursue Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] forces. What do you say about this?

['Abd-al-Rahman] These are false charges, like all PUK and Talabani charges. [passage omitted] Turkish forces brought in some Kurds from among their collaborators in Turkey and gave them Iraqi Kurdish attire, like that worn by some of our peshmerga in order to deceive the PKK. It is obvious that we cannot be a party to this.

[Birru] Do you condemn the Turkish forces attack on PKK positions?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The question is not to condemn or not condemn. The question is that this operation must end as soon as possible. It has harmed civilians, as you know. The entry of such a large force has frightened people and civilians. No doubt our people and some of our party members were disarmed. Some property was taken, but some was returned.

KDP Terms Anti-Regime Coup Attempt 'Farce'

JN2803150395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the failure of their repeated attacks against the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP], and particularly their famous defeat at (Kafnasan), the jackasses of 66 [as heard] fabricated this unfounded farce.

We wanted to explain the reality to our people. We, however, refrained from doing so for several reasons, including our desire to stop gossip and block the road before feeble excuses, although we know very well that what had happened was a mere farce.

We are not used to lying to the Kurdish and Iraqi peoples, especially in a sensitive issue such as this one. We would not have referred to this subject if some people had not started fabricating lies about the KDP and twisting facts, as usual, in the hope that the people would believe them.

In order to inform our people and the Iraqi people of the truth about that farce, we will clarify the following points, so that those who conceal facts from the people are disgraced before God and history.

1. In late March, a number of persons came to say that all was ready for a coup in Baghdad. They said that the Army and tribes in central Iraq would stage an uprising, to coincide with another popular uprising in southern Iraq. They further said that Mosul would be taken and that an Army division and an Army brigade on the Mosul axis, and two divisions on the Karkuk axis, would join the opposition.

2. On the night of 4-5 March, an uprising was to be launched in Baghdad to supplement the operations in Mosul.

3. The coalition aircraft would on the same night, that is 4-5 March, bombard the enemy's military units in Baghdad and other areas.

4. Supporters of the Kurdish parties, the peshmerga, would advance toward Mosul and Karkuk to support the central and southern areas.

5. Heads of the jackasses of the 66 said they could not make any contribution or group their forces out of fear of the KDP. The KDP's position in that regard was clear. This operation was very important and directly affects our future and the future of the Iraqi people as a whole, and, therefore, the story must be checked and verified.

Despite this, and because they announced that the matter would end within four days, the KDP pledged to the Unified Iraqi National Congress, UINC, not to launch any attacks on Irbil, and it kept its promise.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

6. It finally became apparent that the matter was no more than a farce and that there were no enemy concentrations, as claimed by the media of the jackasses of 66 and those deceived by them. Also, no division or brigade joined the opposition, no uprising took place in the center or the South, and there was no international support. All that took place was a farce aimed at ending the crisis of a number of people.

The KDP, which cannot be deceived, is not ready to drag our people into something which has no definite political objective. We reaffirm to the honest masses of Kurdistan and to the entire Iraqi people that there is nobody more eager than the KDP to liberate Kurdistan and the Iraqi people at the appropriate time, and history will be our witness. However, we did not learn to run behind ghosts to hide a crime and we are not on-call soldiers. We also will not allow our liberation movement to become an on-call movement.

Once again, there is nothing in history for which we feel guilty, neither did we commit any crime in Kurdistan so as to cover with such miserable bargaining or to justify the tragedies and suffering inflicted on our people by taking over some of the (?guards). Thousands of our people have been displaced and their property has been plundered by both parties as a result of this farce.

Let us ask our people and the Iraqi people to be the arbitrators. If what happened was not a farce what would be the result and what would be the situation after 20 days? Changing the regime through a military action is one thing, and waging a long war by the Iraqi opposition to topple the regime is something else. Let us discuss whether the second option, particularly in the current stage, can achieve a democratic, federal Iraq. There is no doubt that the KDP is fully ready and capable of playing an important role to achieve a democratic Iraq and a federal Kurdistan, without beating around the bush and without resorting to farces.

Blackened are the faces of those who hide facts from people and expose them to illusions.

Barzani Claims PUK Storms Kurdistan Parliament

JN2803202495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 95

["Urgent" statement by the KDP Political Bureau issued in Salah al-Din on 28 March—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1100 today, 28 March, a military force from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] estimated at 100 armed men led by Qadir Hamajan, also known as Hakim Qadir, who was appointed by Jalal Talabani as absolute ruler in Irbil, besieged the Kurdistan Parliament and stormed their way in after disarming its security guards. When the PUK men entered the building, they took control of all the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] parliamentary bloc, who, along with other members, had been staging a sit-in in the building since 20 January 1994 demanding an end to internal fighting and a return to legitimacy.

The PUK men then insulted the speaker of parliament, Jawhar Namiq Salim. They forced him to the upper story of the building and then confiscated all the internal and external communications equipment that belongs to the speaker and the KDP parliamentary bloc. This included radio equipment, telephones, and an international fax and telephone machine. They also impounded a quantity of parliamentary documents, papers belonging to the aforementioned bloc, as well as personal papers. The PUK officials had already cut the internal telephone links of this bloc.

Thus, the Kurdistan parliament is now besieged and cut off from outside even within the capital, Irbil.

This is a flagrant action and a violation of the parliament and of the immunity of its members. The parliament is the last vestige of legitimacy in the Kurdistan region. There is real fear for the safety of the parliament speaker and its KDP parliamentary bloc.

This aggression against the Kurdistan people's parliament is a serious escalation of the situation by the PUK leadership. This has created great tension in Irbil and in Kurdistan as a whole. It is another indication that the PUK leadership is determined to carry its military coup against the legitimacy through to the end. This leadership is very far from accepting a peaceful solution of the crisis.

Therefore, we call for the following:

1. Protesting strongly against the PUK leadership for its shameful behavior and bringing pressure to bear on it in order to maintain the dignity and life of the parliament speaker and the KDP bloc.

2. Returning all the parliamentary property confiscated by the PUK and handing it over to the parliament, its speaker, and the KDP bloc.

3. Removing armed men and checkpoints from the parliament building and all roads leading to it and guaranteeing the freedom of movement for all its members.

4. Evacuating armed men from Irbil and making it a free and safe city for all so that the legislative, executive, and judicial institutions and the political and social establishments might exercise their duties in freedom and safety.

[Dated] Salah al-Din, 28 March

PUK Fighters Recapture Banjwin, Other Positions

NC2603153695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and other Kurdish parties are deeply involved in confronting the acts of aggression of the Iraqi Army, which are massed along the borders of the liberated areas of Kurdistan, the henchmen of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] treacherously stabbed in the back the PUK and other Kurdish parties, committing atrocities and capturing the township of Banjwin and its outskirts.

In retaliation for the KDP's bestial attacks and in order to defend Banjwin town and its inhabitants, the PUK's heroic peshmerga fighters carried out a lightening attack on the KDP forces. The PUK fighters succeeded in purging Banjwin and other areas of the filth of those who collude with the dictatorial regime.

The inhabitants of Banwjin welcomed the PUK heroic peshmerga fighters on their victory and the purging of their valiant town.

Peshmerga Said To Take Control of Villages

NC2703165295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga forces managed last night, Sunday, to cleanse large areas on the (Shahrazur) axis of the agent Barzani's armed men who cooperate with the foreigners.

In brave and heroic operations, the peshmerga heroes managed to take control of the villages of Walasin, (Seyamyawa), (Khirnot), and Zangisir, as well as the heights around them up to the area of (Nalbarez). There, they joined up with the PUK forces that triumphed on the Banjwin-(Nalbarez) axis. These operations inflicted heavy losses on the collapsing Barzani armed men who fled leaving behind the bodies of over 20 people.

Further on Tribal Pro-Saddam Rallies

JN2503180895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Tribal and clan chiefs and the people of the District of al-Ghammas, al-Qadisiyah Governorate, have renewed the pledge of affection and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn. During a massive rally in the district capital attended by comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of al-Qadisiyah and al-Muthanna, the masses hailed his excellency's courageous stand in confronting the forces of evil and aggression for the sake of preserving Iraq's dignity and honor. They affirmed that they stand as one rank and consider themselves projects of martyrdom in defense of Iraq and the aims of the 17-30 July Revolution to foil the plots that threaten the people and seek to undermine great Iraq. The rally was attended by al-Qadisiyah Governor Tariq Fayzi al-Hazza' and the secretary and members of al- Qadisiyah party branch leadership.

The members of tribes and clans in the District of al-'Alam, Salah al-Din Governorate, have renewed the pledge of absolute allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn and said that they remain loyal soldiers for the sake of defending and building great Iraq. During a rally in the district, the tribesmen affirmed their full readiness to make any sacrifice for the sake of the homeland's unity and sovereignty. The rally was attended by comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Salah al-Din and al-Anbar and the comrade secretary and members of Salah al-Din party branch leadership.

The sons of the al-Sumayda' tribes in the District of Jalawla', Diyala Governorate, have renewed the pledge of affection and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn and affirmed their full readiness to serve as martyrdom projects for the sake of Iraq and the Arab nation. During a rally attended by comrade Mushir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorate of Diyala and Diyala Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif Kitan, the tribesmen affirmed that they remain sharp swords and strong shields in defense of Iraq and the sovereignty and dignity of its people.

Tribes in the District of al-Qadisiyah, al-Najaf Governorate, have denounced the U.S. Administration's stands, which are aimed at prolonging the unfair economic embargo on our steadfast people. During a rally in the district yesterday attended by comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Babil, Karbala', and al-Najaf, the tribes renewed the pledge that they shall remain constant projects for martyrdom for the sake of great Iraq's honor and dignity. The rally was attended by al-Najaf Governor 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun and the comrade secretary and members of al-Najaf party branch leadership.

Tribal and clan chiefs and aldermen in the Governorate of Wasit have denounced the imperialist-Zionist plots and plans to prolong the crime of the unfair blockade to starve the steadfast Iraqi people. During a rally at the headquarters of the Wasit party branch leadership, the tribes affirmed their readiness to make any sacrifice in defense of the sovereignty and sacred soil of the homeland. The rally was attended by comrade 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Maysan and Wasit; Wasit Governor Mahmud Shakir Shahin; and the comrade secretary and members of Wasit party branch leadership.

Tribal and clan chiefs meeting at the headquarters of al-Basrah party branch leadership and the offices of party sections and groups in the governorate and its marshlands have expressed their absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn and affirmed that they stand behind the flag of Allahu Akbar. Comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd- al-Karim al-Sa'dun, secretary of al-Basrah party branch leadership, has said that this public attitude is a precise expression of the close relationship and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

unlimited interaction between the people and their great historical leadership. It is also an expression of the people's full readiness to make any sacrifice in defense of the security of precious Iraq, he said. He added that the party branch leadership receives daily documents of pledges written in blood to the symbol leader, may God preserve him, from the governorate's tribes pledging to his excellency that they and all their sons remain constant projects for martyrdom and challenges and that they will exert any effort for the sake of Iraq's honor and future and the achievement of final victory over the renegade enemies.

The tribal chiefs and people of al-Ta'mim Governorate renewed their firm pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn that they remain loyal soldiers for his historical leadership and will march forward under the flag of Allahu Akbar on the firm road of strength in defense of great Iraq and the unity of its people and territory. The pledge was made during a massive rally by al-Tamim Governor Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri and comrade Ahmad Hasan al-'Ubaydi, secretary of al-Ta'mim party branch leadership, and several comrade members of the party branch leadership at al-Tamim Hall in the City of Kurkuk. In their songs and cheers, the tribesmen affirmed our people's ability to cross to the bank of victory with unshakeable confidence and to continue the course of steadfastness and challenge under all circumstances.

Saddam Allocates Funds for Education

JN2503180695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 243,580,770 dinars to bolster education in the country.

Making this announcement, Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz said: Of this amount, 313,380,770 dinars will be added to the ministry's budget for 1995 and 110,200,000 dinars to its investment plan.

The minister explained a part of this generous offer will be used to back the efforts of the National Committee for the Great National Faith Campaign in teaching the holy Koran, build an examination center for the elementary school stage, support the project for a school for gifted students, build mechanical workshops, expand the Institute for Tourism and Hotels, cover expenditures for use of computers in education, and print school textbooks.

The minister said President Saddam Husayn's generous offer and other previous offers to support education should serve as an incentive prompting ministry employees to show their appreciation for the great care and attention given by leader President Saddam Husayn by promoting education in Iraq and achieving its full aims.

UNESCO Acknowledges Country's Soil Invention

JN2503175795 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] has adopted an invention which has been made by the Science Faculty at al-Basrah University.

The invention involves transforming certain nitrate fertilizers into liquid additives, which have proven to be highly effective in consolidating sandy soil. Once these additives are sprayed on soil and exposed to the heat of the sun they become reticulate materials holding the soil together, increasing its agricultural value, and preventing it from becoming barren. These reticulate materials can be mixed with certain water-loving chemicals to make them acquire the property of water absorption.

Communications Minister Meets Swedish Delegation

JN2703123795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Ahmad Murtada today met with a delegation from the Swedish company Ericsson, led by Lenart Kalinik. [name as transliterated]

They discussed the possibility of the Swedish firm's involvement in communications projects in Iraq.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres Says No Breakthrough in Talks With Syria

TA2803124795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Report by Steve Linde—italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Peres said he doubts the veracity of THE WASHINGTON TIMES report that the United States pledged to remove Syria from the list of states supporting terror and drug trafficking in exchange for a resumption of peace talks with Israel. THE TIMES said that President Clinton conveyed a message to this effect to Syrian President al-Asad via the Saudi foreign minister.

Peres said there has been no breakthrough in talks between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington, but he said that the fact that the meetings are continuing is in itself positive. Asked at the Mayors' Conference breakfast what the chances of a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin or himself with the Syrian president are, Peres had this to say:

[Peres] *The prospects are good, the chances are poor. I mean, eventually we shall have to do it. I said the prospect because there is no alternative for Syria and ourselves but to make peace; everything else will be a mistake. The chances are still not good enough to have it happen in the near future.*

[Announcer] The foreign minister was also asked about negotiations taking place in Cairo on Palestinian elections, and he said one thing is clear.

[Peres] *We shall insist, as we do, that people who call for the destruction of Israel cannot participate in the elections. People who support racism or terror or destruction of a country cannot really participate in an election.*

[Announcer] Answering a question about the future of Jerusalem, Peres said he sees no reason for the Palestinian claim to the city.

[Peres] *As far as Jerusalem is concerned, I think this is one issue that the whole of the Israeli people are totally united on—namely, that Jerusalem will never be divided. It will remain the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty, though we are ready, I think, to go a long way to answer the religious expectations of all believers from all the three religions. But we are not going to turn Jerusalem into another Berlin; we are not going to build a wall in the heart of the street or the city; and we do not see any reason for the Palestinian claim. While Jerusalem was never a Palestinian capital, on the other hand, the Jewish people have never had any other capital but Jerusalem.*

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 28 March in a report by Hadar Vismonsky on Peres' remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, carries a recorded statement by Peres in which he says he is "optimistic" about the Palestinian Authority's handling of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terrorism. "I think that certain progress has been made in 'Arafat's handling of terrorism. There is a higher level of seriousness. We are still making very detailed demands in that field."]

Interviewed on Talks, 1 Jun IDF Pullout

TA2903091495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] Is the report by our Washington correspondent substantiated?

[Peres] I did not hear it.

[Friedman] She said that by the end of this week the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington may reach an understanding about the principles of the security arrangements to be included in a future peace treaty between Israel and Syria.

[Peres] I hope so. I do not know about principles, but I know about at least one principle.

[Friedman] Which is?

[Peres] The complicated issue of equality in security, whether equality is a starting point or an end result. Still, any progress is welcome.

[Friedman] If I understand you correctly, Syria, which has always insisted on symmetry in the mutual security arrangements, and Israel, which has been talking about reciprocity, will reach some kind of compromise whereby the process will begin with reciprocity and end in symmetry.

[Peres] No, symmetry means ensuring the security of both Israel and Syria. However, that does not mean that if one moves one inch the other side must also move one inch. In other words, the equality must be in the final result, in the end product.

[Friedman] If so, what sort of understanding will the ambassadors reach?

[Peres] We will see when they reach it. I do not want to make any prophecies.

[Friedman] If an understanding is reached as early as this week, what is the next step?

[Peres] I think that would lead to meetings between army officers.

[Friedman] What are these army officers supposed to do?

[Peres] To translate this algebraic formula into facts in the field and a technical reality.

[Friedman] And when the technicians finish their work, then it will once again be the politicians' turn to start working. Is that right?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Peres] Yes, indeed.

[Friedman] When will that phase take place?

[Peres] They have not yet finished one phase; therefore, I can make no predictions.

[Friedman] I am being so persistent because we have been hearing in the last few days from the Syrians, and what is more important, also from the Americans, that a final agreement between Israel and Syria can be attained within three months. Is this assessment unfounded?

[Peres] I do not know whether it is an unfounded assessment. I think nobody can estimate the timeframe yet. I hope this assessment is correct, but I cannot tell you for certain that it will come true.

[Friedman] I would like to ask you about the role and contribution of the Americans in this arrangement. These days America is having a hard time writing off Jordan's minuscule debt of $250 million. So, what kind of temptations or enticements can it offer al-Asad, whose demands are much more far-reaching than that?

[Peres] We have not yet reached that stage. Having said that, I hope the Jordan issue will work out. If peace is attained, I am sure that the atmosphere will change and that large contributions from all over the world will become available. However, we are still at a very early stage. I am glad about any progress, but there is still a long way ahead of us.

[Friedman] What is the influence of the lobbying in the United States by Israeli right-wing members as well as by colleagues in your own party, such as Avigdor Qahalani, who are trying to persuade the Americans not to send soldiers to the force that will police the Golan Heights in the future?

[Peres] This undoubtedly does a disservice to Israel's cause. It frightens American mothers for no reason at all.

[Friedman] And fathers who are members of Congress.

[Peres] Yes, indeed. After all, we are not seeking to station U.S. Army troops in the Golan Heights. We are actually talking about something resembling the MFO [Multinational Force and Observers] in the Sinai. We are not talking about a fighting force or about taking part in a war, and all this intimidation is totally unnecessary. I think their interference and prophesies of doom are out of place and unacceptable. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Will the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Janin and Nabulus start on 1 June?

[Peres] I do not know where that report came from, but I would like to say something about it since I heard 'Arafat commenting on the issue. We agreed to try to conclude the negotiations on the agreement with the Palestinians—not its implementation—by 1 July. 'Arafat asked whether this could be done by 1 June, and I suggested a compromise of between 15 June to 1 July. In other words, the soonest would be 15 June, although our deadline is 1 July.

[Friedman] When will the troops start pulling out?

[Peres] We do not know yet what the agreement will be; that is what we are trying to work out.

[Friedman] Is last night's report therefore unfounded?

[Peres] Definitely yes.

[Friedman] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Peres Denies Proposal To Grant Gaza Statehood

TA2803115995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the negotiations with the Palestinians may not necessarily lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He personally prefers that a confederation be set up between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan at the end of the process. Mr. Peres made the remarks after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the foreign minister said there is no proposal to convert Gaza into a Palestinian state if the Palestinians give up Judaea and Samaria. Mr. Peres noted that there are all sorts of ideas floating around which must be separated from proposals that are a basis for negotiations. He said the negotiations are currently being held only on the second stage of the Oslo accords.

Peres on Egyptian Ties, Fears of Dominance

TA2903111195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 95 p A4

[Report by party affairs correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In his briefing to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also confirmed that the Egyptian press was still publishing provocative reports against Israel. Peres said that when he had last met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, he made it clear that Israel had no intention of dominating the Middle East economy or taking over Egypt's central role in the region. Peres asserted that there were still differences of opinion in various fields between Egypt and Israel. "There are regressive forces," the foreign minister said, "who are not pleased with the profound revolution sweeping the Middle East. I am not frightened by these forces. One must remember that over the years, the Arab boycott forced Israel to build up an economy that is not dependent on the Middle East. The Middle East is poor, and we have no interest in becoming the address for this poverty."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The foreign minister admitted that there was a great deal of envy toward Israel in the Arab countries. "People must realize that the entire past cannot be erased in one fell swoop," Peres explained, noting that "there are also positive forces which support the process. We continue to view Egypt as a major Middle East player and have no intention of belittling its importance, the foreign minister said. [passage omitted]

Savir: Syria Still Supporting Terrorists

TA2803134395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says, so far as he knows, Syria has not stopped supporting terrorist organizations. Speaking to reporters in Jerusalem, Savir was skeptical about the report that the U.S. offered to remove Syria from the list of countries supporting terrorism in return for Syria's returning to the peace negotiations. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Uri Savir says the question of whether the U.S. offered to remove Syria from the list of countries supporting terrorism should be addressed to the State Department, but as far as he knew, whether Syria remained on the American list did not depend on whether it took part in the peace negotiations with Israel.

[Savir] Syria being on that specific list, I would guess, has to do with the reasons that Syria is on that list, and I would venture to say that Syria being taken off that list probably is related to the change in the reasons that had put Syria there in the first place. I can tell you from our point of view that any peace treaty or peace settlement with Syria—between Syria and Israel—obviously will include an end to any encouragement by Syria of any terror organizations that either are based in Syria or are based in territories under Syrian influence.

[Katzenell] I asked the director general how much truth there was in yesterday's Israeli press report that Syria had ordered the terrorist organizations out of Damascus.

[Savir] I cannot tell you that I am aware of any substantial changes right now in the Syrian position, but our two ambassadors are meeting in Washington these very days; they touch on the various issues pertaining to potential progress between Syria and Israel. That is definitely one of the issues that could be raised there or in follow-up talks when we get to more concrete security discussions that we would like to have with Syria. [end recording]

Rabin Says PA Over-Recruits Police Officers

TA2803164795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Palestinian Authority [PA] has recruited 5,000 to 8,000 police without Israel's approval and in violation of the Oslo accords.

Rabin also said that the meeting by the head of the Palestinian Security Service, Jibril al-Rujub, at the home of Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer took place without his knowledge.

Rabin was replying to questions in the Knesset from Likud faction leader Moshe Qatzav.

Rabin To Visit Bonn for Meeting With Kohl

TA2903102595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the next few hours Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave on a lightning visit to Bonn, where he will confer this evening with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that an official communique states that the two men will discuss a series of issues, including bilateral relations, Israel's ties with the EU, and the peace process. It was officially announced that the meeting is taking place as part of the understanding between the two leaders to hold informal meetings to exchange information and coordinate positions on political issues. In response to a question, the prime minister's media adviser said that there is nothing new with regard to missing navigator Ron Arad.

IDF Said To Evacuate Nabulus, Janin HQs 1 Jun

TA2803193395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Video report by military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 1 June the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will evacuate its headquarters in Nabulus and Janin. Soldiers stationed in these cities have been informed in internal briefings. The IDF is currently putting the final touches on its redeployment plan, and our military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel brings us the details:

[Daniyel] The IDF will fold its flags and evacuate its main bases in Nabulus and Janin within two months. The 1st of June was cited as a possible date for the evacuation in internal briefings to soldiers, and all actions are geared toward it. [passage omitted]

The IDF has already completed its redeployment plans. The soldiers evacuated from Nabulus will go, after a short 5-km drive, to a nearby IDF base, Mahane Horon, which will become the new main headquarters. [passage omitted]

The IDF headquarters in Janin will relocate to Mahane Dotan, the Tulkarm headquarters to the settlement of Yaqir Darom, and the Ramallah District headquarters to the Bet El-Psagot District. A base will be built in the 'Etzyon Bloc for the soldiers evacuated from Bethlehem. There is as yet no talk about an evacuation from problematic Hebron, but when one it is effected, the new IDF headquarters will be set up in Qiryat Arba'.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This is the general outline of the plan for the IDF's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria. It remains a working plan, not an operational one, since orders have not yet been issued. The details are currently being worked out in deliberations in Tel Aviv, but the overall picture is clear: Janin and Nabulus will be evacuated on 1 June and IDF troops will relocate to their new bases. Incidentally, the Logistics Branch has already started building the new bases for the evacuated IDF headquarters.

Police Stations To Move After IDF Redeployment

TA2803121295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] leaves the city centers in the territories, the police station in Hebron will be transferred to Qiryat Arba' and the Bethlehem station will be moved to Efrat.

He said that following the IDF's evacuation, police stations will be set up in each Israeli settlement in the territories, but he noted that there is still no fixed timetable for the police redeployment. Minister Shahal proposed that in the future, joint patrols be conducted with the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, similar to the patrols already taking place in Gaza and Jericho. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police minister made the remarks during a visit to Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 28 March carries a similar report on Shahal's remarks, adding that Shahal said that "with the IDF's redeployment, the police presence in the territories will be doubled."]

Weizman: Talks With Turkey's Demirel Unrelated to Kurds

TA2803063495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President 'Ezer Weizman spoke by phone last week with Turkish President Demirel. At the end of October, Demirel is to visit Israel. President Weizman's office says the phone conversation last week had nothing to do at all with the Turkish military operation against the Kurds in Iraq.

Commentary Urges Nonconventional Deterrence Line

TA2803144595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 95 p B1

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Limits of Deterrence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli involvement in the peace process has presented national defense policymakers with a challenge that has been seldom discussed and that has been overlooked in the intense preoccupation with the political components of the anticipated agreements. I am referring to the erosion of Israeli deterrent power. The issue involves more than the anticipated surrender of territorial assets, which in itself hurts one of the most prominent assets of deterrence—strategic depth. It is more than a contradiction between the need to present a moderate, conciliatory image at the peace negotiations and the need to present a menacing image, as befitting a country seeking a credible military deterrence.

At the crux of the issue are the other developments which have caused erosion of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deterrent power, and which are liable to lead to a fundamental shift in Israel's deterrence doctrine. Paradoxically, a situation may arise in which the rate of progress in the political process will be matched by a growing need to abandon the conventional deterrence doctrine and embrace nonconventional deterrence.

Israeli deterrence is greatly dependent on the IDF's capability to inflict great and painful damage to the enemy—"deterrence through punishment." This strategic concept is based on the assumption that if deterrence fails and war breaks out, Israel will regain its deterrent capability by winning the battle while making the enemy pay a high price.

The credibility of Israeli deterrence was based mainly on the obvious superiority of its warfare materiel, which its enemies lacked. That materiel permitted the IDF to exact a heavy toll from the enemy without fearing a similar blow. One such instance was the Israel Air Force's capability to raid targets deep in enemy territory. The Israeli success in deterring Arab countries from initiating new wars in the past few decades is believed to be due to their acknowledgement of the Israeli superiority and their fear of the IDF's deterrent power.

Yet this Israeli superiority is gradually eroding as Arab countries are procuring a large arsenal which neutralizes the Israeli capability. This development is chiefly reflected in the various Middle East armies' growing capability to hit Israeli civilian population centers with ballistic missiles. Although Arab countries had ballistic missiles even two decades ago, the rules of the game changed only during the Gulf War. Perhaps for the Arabs, the taboo of attacking a civilian population was broken in 1991. In the future, they may find it easier to make this decision.

In addition, new players have joined the game of deterrence. Countries with no common borders with Israel, such as Iran, have been acquiring a capability to hurt the Israeli home front. This capability challenges the credibility of Israel's conventional deterrence. Can leaders of remote countries, such as Iran or Iraq, be deterred with the military means used to deter Syria and Egypt? Since it is also possible that these remote countries will procure nuclear weapons, we have to conclude that very soon

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel will be unable to "stretch" the credibility of its deterrent power without moving on to the nonconventional plateau.

Any plan of winning wars against remote countries with conventional means is almost pointless, because in the Israeli strategic thinking, the deterrent power is based on rapidly moving the war over to enemy territory, destroying as much as possible of its army and a major part of its weapons arsenal, taking territory, and calling up the strategic threat. None of these can be achieved if a war is waged against Iraq, Iran, or Libya.

The prime minister seems to be fully aware of the required policy change. It should be said in Yitzhaq Rabin's defense that of all the people, he has been the most vocal in publicly announcing the strategic line mandated by the advent of the new era. Although he has left many areas vague and ambiguous, his statements imply that he is closer than others to embracing a nonconventional deterrence doctrine.

"As defense minister, I believed it was our duty to state that any attempt to dispatch ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv would provoke a reaction one hundred times worse against Damascus and other Syrian cities...", Rabin said at a lecture after the Gulf War. "The only way to deter the use of ballistic missiles is to announce that threefold devastation will be inflicted on Damascus than they had on Tel Aviv—by retaliation means that need not be specified."

Later, when he became prime minister and defense minister, Rabin again referred to this issue. In an interview in HA'ARETZ, he reiterated that "for every attack against the Israeli home front, the IDF will retaliate with a massive attack on the attacking country's cities."

In the absence of comprehensive peace in the Middle East, deterrence will remain the chief component in Israel's national defense doctrine. In the wake of the change in the nature of the anticipated future threats and in the identity of the threatening parties, the emergence of political agreements in the Middle East is accompanied—as implied by Rabin—by the gradual termination of the era of conventional deterrence. The prospects of maintaining peace arrangements under the aegis of nonconventional deterrence will be explored in the next decade.

No Signals Received From Russian-Launched Satellite

TA2803153895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As of this time there has been no information on the whereabouts of the Israeli satellite launched into orbit this morning and no signals have yet been received from it.

Scientists at the control center at Technion in Haifa are hoping to get a signal from the satellite this evening, when it is scheduled to pass over Israel. Our correspondent Uri Gordon reports:

[Gordon] The satellite Techsat-Gurvin-1 is quietly orbiting somewhere in outer space, while down here turmoil prevails. The ground crew at Technion has not received any signs of life from the satellite. Also, there has been no contact with the team sent to Russia led by Professor Giyora Shaviv, the initiator of the project. According to news agencies, the rocket bearing the satellite was launched this morning as planned from a site 900 km north of Moscow. The satellite carries scientific equipment provided by Israeli high- tech firms, such as Elbit and El-Op, which had been hoping for a cheap opportunity to check their equipment's performance in space. Now, however, it is unclear what will be the fate of $3.5 million invested in the project, not to mention hundreds of work hours by Technion students.

Dr. Yosi Sharti'el, one of the scientists involved in the project, says he is very worried. [passage omitted]

At 2100 [1900 GMT] this evening, the satellite is scheduled to fly over Israel once again. The scientists will then try again to receive some signal which will probably elicit a big sigh of relief from the entire team.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

More Reportage, Comments on Husayn's U.S. Visit

King, Christopher Hold News Conference

JN2803211295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated that the U.S. Congress will soon approve a package of debt relief for Jordan. He was speaking during a joint press conference with his majesty the king following talks at the State Department in Washington tonight. The king reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that he was satisfied with his talks in Washington.

Christopher told reporters that the administration was deeply committed to the debt relief, and that Congress is responding to that:

[Begin recording] [Christopher] I must say that I am tremendously pleased to welcome His majesty King Husayn of Jordan here to the State Department today. There have been so many times your majesty when you received me so warmly, and your hospitality has been so kind in Jordan that I welcome this opportunity to have you here at the State Department, and to have an opportunity to talk with you again. As I think all of you know, the king has been in my home town in Los Angeles in the last few days, and he's received two very important awards there; first, the Ronald Reagan Freedom Medal, and second, the 1995 Peace Award of the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Those are extremely important awards, and they're a reflection of the respect and affection that we all have here in the United States for the king and for the courageous stand he has taken in the Middle East over the last year and led in to many respects by the king. We've seen a fundamental transformation of the Middle East, with the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel standing as, perhaps, the signal accomplishment of this entire recent period. We're looking forward to working with the king and his ministers on trying to make the peace a living reality to bring home to the people of Jordan and in the entire region the results of a warm peace, the results of the relationships that have been created. I want to say that the opportunity to work with the king on these matters has been a signal one for the United States. We want to do all we can to assist Jordan and Israel in this historic transformation that's taking place there. The king and I look forward, as we have so often in the past, to reviewing, not only global and regional matters, but bilateral matters between our two countries that we do it in the context of a great warmth and friendship and so, your majesty, thank you so much for honoring us by being here at the State Department.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed. Thank you sir.

[Christopher] I welcome you to...[sentence incomplete as heard]

[Husayn] Mr. Secretary, my friends, I'd like to say how pleased I am to be able to be in Washington at this time. I've had the privilege and pleasure of meeting the President yesterday. I've visited Los Angeles and I was very touched and moved by the warm reception there, and happy for the opportunity to meet many many friends in that beautiful city. I thank you very much indeed, Mr. Secretary, for the opportunity to meet with you once again, a dear friend whom we've seen in our region time and again furthering the cause of peace, the comprehensive peace in that region.

As for our relations sir, they're always warm. They're founded on trust, and on confidence, and the common view, and determination to achieve peace within our region for all the peoples there.

As for what has been achieved so far, we are very proud and happy to have succeeded, in many cases beyond our expectations in terms of the time that it was going to take to implement [word indistinct] of our agreements that is between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

And, we are determined to see a full peace, a normal peace, a warm peace come about, and hopefully in the region as a whole, and in any event for this peace to be an example to others and an opportunity for people to move away from the tragedies of the past towards coming together and building together a future that is worthy of them.

We are totally dedicated to the cause of peace everlasting between the children of Abraham and their followers. Thank you very very much indeed, sir.

[Christopher] Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Correspondent] King Husayn: Are you to meet with [words indistinct] president [words indistinct] next week?

[Husayn] When he visits Jordan. He's on a private visit to Jordan. If I am back, of course I will meet him [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: What should be done to get from Syria the same warmth and normalization that Jordan is giving to Israel? And can there be a lasting peace in the Middle East without the Syrians?

[Husayn] I certainly hope that Syria will be a part of the peace that we all seek in the region, and I think that the secretary would be better qualified to answer this question than I.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] relief that you got here.

[Husayn] I beg your pardon.

[Correspondent] Are you disappointed with the programs with the debts relief?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Husayn] No, we are aware of the fact that this subject is being looked at by all our friends here in a very positive way, and we are quite satisfied that the results, God willing, will be positive.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: How did you really see Mr. Gingrich [words indistinct] reception of your request to wipe out the foreign debts for Jordan [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] The meeting was a very good one. We had the opportunity to discuss many matters. I had the opportunity to answer many questions about developments in our region, and I believe that the atmosphere is very promising.

[Christopher] If I could just add a word or two to that. The United States feels deeply obligated to carry out its commitment to the king and to the Government of Jordan. This is a request the United States has made by the President to its Congress to approve this form of debt relief. The action taken by the Senate last week to approve it in a satisfactory form, I think, is an indication of a growing understanding on Capitol Hill of the importance of responding to the courageous action taken by the Government of Jordan. I appreciate the willingness of the king to meet with some of the leaders of Congress. I do want to emphasize that this is a request that comes from the President, and the administration, the Congress to take an action which is very much in our national interest to take because we must support those who take risks for peace as the king and his country has courageously done. And now, do forgive us, the king and I are going to have a vital lunch together.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir. Thank you very very much. [end recording]

Husayn Meets With Congressmen, Christopher

JN2903082995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn visited the U.S. Senate last night. His majesty met with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and Minority Leader Thomas Daschle. During the meeting, they exchanged viewpoints on a number of regional and international issues. Moreover, their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur and their accompanying delegation met with the chairman and members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. His majesty also met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last night. His majesty and Mr. Christopher held a meeting that was followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both countries. His Majesty King Husayn's activities in Washington are outlined in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] During His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and Minority Leader Thomas Daschle, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of regional and international issues. His majesty stressed the importance of the U.S. role in achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East region and the importance of Jordan's role in reinforcing security and stability in the region. His majesty also appreciated the U.S. Senate's stand in support of exempting Jordan from its debts to the United States. His majesty noted that security and stability in the Middle East region require joint efforts to develop the region and to achieve the desired positive change in its peoples' standard of living and the future of its generations, who are eager to harvest the fruits of peace.

For their part, Senators Robert Dole and Thomas Daschle stressed their country's commitment to supporting the Middle East peace process and Jordan in various fields in light of its important role in the region and efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in it. They also noted appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's stands in support of achieving the desired peace.

During a meeting Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur and their accompanying delegation held with the chairman and members of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of regional and international issues of comment interest. Some committee members asked his majesty about the peace process on all tracks. His Majesty King Husayn said that all those Arab brothers who attended the Madrid Conference and are taking part in the peace process are committed to achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed on behalf of his attending colleagues their appreciation for Jordan's important role in the peace process and for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and continuous work on achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region. They voiced their country's support for Jordan in all fields.

Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur held a meeting with Representative Robert Livingston, chairman of the Appropriations Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, and Representative Sonny Callahan, chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, which belongs to the House Appropriations Committee. They discussed a number of regional and international issues of common interest. Representatives Livingston and Callahan said that the U.S. House of Representatives will fulfill its commitment in support of His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to achieve peace; that is, by agreeing to exempt Jordan from its debts to the United States.

His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They held a meeting followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both countries. During the meeting, the two discussed a number of regional and international

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issues of common interest, foremost among which are recent developments in the Middle East peace process. His Majesty King Husayn stressed the constants of the Jordanian stand in support of achieving peace in the Middle East and on the need for joint action to achieve tangible progress on all tracks of the peace process so that comprehensive peace and lasting stability would be realized in the region. His majesty noted that reinforcing the chances for peace and entrenching its pillars in the region require activating and developing fields of economic and social development in them to create a tangible positive change in the peoples' standard of living in the region. Foremost among these fields is realizing the creation of a regional development bank in the Middle East. It is hoped that this bank will create investment opportunities and easy-term loans. His Majesty King Husayn welcomed the hosting of the economic summit, which will be held in Amman next October.

On his part, Warren Christopher voiced his country's appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's stands on the peace process and his continuous efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region. He stressed the U.S. commitment to supporting Jordan in all fields, foremost among which is the economic field, in light of Jordan's major role in achieving security and stability in the region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Foreign Minister on Washington Meetings

JN2903101895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has described the atmosphere permeating the meeting His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation held with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House and with U.S. Congressmen as very positive and full of appreciation for Jordan and its leadership. He noted that the talks were brotherly and warm.

In a telephone conversation with AL-RA'Y yesterday, al-Kabariti added: Official meetings with senior U.S. officials have indicated that there is a real trend toward writing off all Jordan's debts, which amount to $275 million within the 1995 budget, and toward offering defense aid to the kingdom.

Al-Kabariti said: The U.S. Congressmen expressed their full appreciation of Jordan's important role in entrenching the pillars of peace. They also praised His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership of Jordan and ability to overcome all the hardships it has gone through.

The congressmen also stressed their real understanding of the economic situation and the need to exempt Jordan from its debts to the United States as promised by the U.S. Administration last year.

On the size of annual economic aid to Jordan, which was previously announced as amounting to $43 million in economic and defense aid, al-Kabariti said: It is difficult to discuss all financial matters all together, especially when this requires issuing financial addendums for the 1996 and 1997 [budgets]. The main issue is to get a final and clear decision to agree to fully write off Jordan's debts this year. This issue will be finalized during the joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in Washington on 7 April.

He noted that during the first day of meetings, a detailed discussion was held on the developments in the Middle East peace process, as well as the stages of implementing the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. There was an emphasis on the importance of the direct U.S. role in pushing the negotiations forward and facilitating them on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks with Israel.

Al-Kabariti also noted that the U.S. Congress is becoming convinced of the importance of settling issues related to the Palestinian track before holding elections in the self-rule areas. The congressmen are also convinced that a just solution to the Middle East issue is based on finding a just solution on the Palestinian track.

On the importance of Jordan's regional role, al-Kabariti said: We sensed a clear understanding and appreciation of Jordan's regional role in entrenching peace and stability in the region. The Americans are focusing on Jordan's important role after signing the peace treaty with Israel, taking into consideration that the region is full of disputes and that Jordan can play a role in guaranteeing security and stability since it is qualified—in terms of manpower—to stand against any possible aggression whether against the region or neighboring regions. It is known that Jordan's forces are the third largest contingent, in terms of numbers, within the UN peacekeeping forces.

Al-Kabariti said that His Majesty King Husayn and the negotiating delegation will continue their meetings with the U.S. Senate, and later, with the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense to discuss bilateral, defense, and economic relations.

Visit Expected To Yield Positive Results

JN2803083995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Anticipated Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to the United States acquires a special importance, not because it takes place after Jordan has signed the peace treaty, but because the United States shoulders a basic and large responsibility toward protecting this peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The U.S. Vice President's announcements during his visit to our country may have revived hope that the United States is aware of the importance of translating its concern for peace into real action that convinces all parties of the feasibility of peace on the one hand, and of the fact that its continuation hinges on the direct attention given to it and on converting it from mere signed papers and documents into a sweeping change for a better life on the other.

Mr. Al Gore's statements have set the stage for the success of his majesty's visit. The king's talks with President Clinton, senior U.S. officials, and congressional leaders will have many positive results. Peace not only means an end to war—it also means war against poverty, which nurtures extremism; war against despair, which breeds violence; and war against giving the enemies of peace any chance to destroy the future, as was the past in this region.

Peace means securing a dignified life for our children. Such a target cannot be achieved by simply keeping these children away from war and its horrors, but first and foremost by combating poverty, ignorance, disease, and backwardness. Otherwise, such peace will portend danger and destroy all that has been accomplished and all that we have begun to view as a beautiful and peaceful future awaiting us all.

United States Urged To Honor Commitments

JN2803083295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Hope Peace Requirements Will Be Met"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian political move, led by His Majesty King Husayn in the international arena, reached its peak in the summit meeting held with U.S. President Bill Clinton last night, and in the subsequent meetings his majesty will hold with senior U.S. Government and congressional officials.

This Jordanian move, which comes amid intensive regional and international efforts, is extremely important due to Jordan's pivotal role in the Middle East peace process and its vigor in advancing this process toward its objectives, which will reflect positively on all Middle East peoples and countries.

The major topics discussed by King Husayn and President Clinton during their talks deal directly with the principles on which peace should be built; namely, the comprehensiveness of the peace process on all Arab fronts in accordance with international legitimacy, its resolutions, and the principle of exchanging land for peace. The achievements that have been made on the path of peace will be threatened and vulnerable to dangers and jolts if the other tracks—the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks—are not reinforced.

In light of the importance of the Jordanian role and its effectiveness in the overall peace process and because Jordan concentrates its efforts on achieving a comprehensive solution in the region, the first requirement for strengthening this Jordanian role is Washington's fulfillment of its pledges to Jordan and of the obligations imposed by the challenges of peace on our country and people in all economic and defense fields. Washington must also meet Jordan's needs to enable to continue its effective and constructive efforts to make the dream of peace and stability in the region and the world come true.

In his address at the World Affairs Council in Los Angles the day before yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that supporting the economies of Jordan and regional states—through a joint American-European-international effort on the basis of partnership in development and regional investment—is the way to defeat the enemies of peace, such as poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion, which constitute fertile soil to grow violence, extremism, and turbulence.

As we are confident that President Clinton and his government will honor their commitment to cancel all Jordan's debts to the United States, we hope that U.S. officials will realize that supporting our country and people economically, modernizing Jordan's Armed Forces, and meeting its economic and defense needs will make Jordan strong. This will enable Jordan—leadership and people—to shoulder their positive and effective role in reinforcing the pillars of peace in the region and building a regional order on the firm grounds of stability and development.

We hope that what King Husayn will present in terms of the facts and principles of a just and comprehensive peace—based on the solid ground of experience and understanding of the situation in the region—will be well received by Washington decisionmakers to serve the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and will reflect positively on the entire region.

Washington Meeting Shows U.S. 'Respect'

JN2803094995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 28 Mar 95 p 19

[Editorial: "The Headlines of the Washington Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Washington summit between King Husayn and President Clinton, which was prepared for in a manner commensurate with its importance, is in itself an indication of the extent of respect and attention the United States harbors for Jordan's role and leadership.

The meeting, held against the backdrop of the U.S. executive and legislative authorities' conviction that Jordan plays a pivotal role in the peace process and in the ensuing multifaceted regional cooperation, primarily indicates Jordan's ability to win the respect of others and to highlight the important role it is playing on all pan-Arab, regional, and international levels.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The current detente in Jordan's relations with various states and world forces has succeeded a stage of blockade that was imposed on Jordan due to its adherence to its pan-Arab obligations and legitimate national rights. Jordan's position on these obligations and rights was vindicated later on, thus the blockade was lifted and the peace treaty, which restored Jordan's rights, was signed. Jordan maintained its firm position on the question of justice and comprehensiveness [of peace] and the importance of restoring the legitimate Palestinian rights.

The U.S. capital, with all its political orientations and influential forces, welcomes King Husayn with understanding and appreciation. In explaining Jordan's national, regional, and pan- Arab interests at the summit and other meetings, King Husayn is supported by the achievements the wise leadership of Jordan brought about in the areas of democracy and basic human infrastructure, which are capable of dealing with the requirements of the forthcoming stage based on coexistence among peoples, participation in regional developments, and peaceful competition in the fields of work and production.

Within this context, the U.S. responsiveness to Jordan's security and development needs meets, in the final analysis, the aspirations of all the region's peoples to move to the stage of peace, stability, political and economic pluralism, development, and the building of a better future for coming generations.

In keeping with the Jordanian conviction that there can be no regional stability and security without comprehensive peace and fair development, King Husayn stressed the need for improving the living conditions of our people in the West Bank and Gaza. This emphasis is related to a conviction that has been and will continue to be a major feature of the Jordanian policy on Palestine and the right of its people to a free and honorable life and to self-determination.

The significant Husayn-Clinton summit will continue to be an indication of the international respect and appreciation of Jordan and its leadership for their long march, which is characterized by patience and steadfastness on their well-known national and pan-Arab stands.

U.S. Appreciation Praised

JN2903091895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 19

[Editorial: "U.S. Consensus on Jordan's Importance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of both the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government have demonstrated—through the meetings His Majesty King Husayn has held in Washington—their respect for Jordan and its leadership, as well as their appreciation for its role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

During his majesty's meeting with Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy, member of the Senate Foreign Appropriations Committee, Leahy said that the overwhelming majority of the Senate support Jordan and the commitment to write off its debts. Also, during his majesty's meeting with Newt Gingrich, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and representative of the Republican majority—the opposition—in the House, Gingrich voiced support for Jordan.

In light of the Republicans winning the majority of the seats in the house, and taking into consideration the big difference in views between the Republican Party and the ruling Democratic Party regarding many foreign political issues, the agreement of both parties in the legislative branch to pay special attention to Jordan and to exclude it from the controversial issues is an indication of the U.S. efforts aimed at entrenching strategic cooperation with Jordan, as it is a state of democracy, stability, and balance, in addition to its important central position.

In light of the information that leaked from the visit His Majesty King Husayn is paying to Washington, bilateral cooperation is expected to witness a qualitative change in all fields. This cooperation will be highlighted in the Amman economic conference, within the framework of the role Jordan is expected to play on the Arab and regional levels during the era of peace, in terms of joint development projects and the new type of relations between the peoples and countries of the region.

Jordan, which has reached this level of democracy and whose people can now—after years of preparation—comprehend the requirements of work and production in the phase of comprehensive development, is now moving toward modernizing its laws and legislation. This Jordan can set a model in the post-peace era in the heart of this region, which has suffered a great deal due to the lack of stability.

Certainly, the United States is now aware of the size of the Jordanian efforts, which are appreciated by both the Legislative and Executive Branches. The United States is also aware of the size of the economic difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of its limited resources and the huge burdens resulting from events and disasters over the past few decades. Those who speak about the importance of peace and stability in the region will serve the peace process and help achieve stability if U.S. and international support is extended to Jordan to meet its development and security needs.

King's Visit 'Fulfilled' All Hopes

JN2903092295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Husayn-Clinton Summit Results Call for Optimism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his meetings with senior U.S.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Administration and Congressional officials, led by President Bill Clinton, have fulfilled all the hopes Jordan has sought to achieve during this visit—a visit paid at the peak of current efforts to entrench the pillars of peace in the Middle East.

Top among these results is the U.S. President's renewal of his administration's promises to write off Jordan's debts in accordance with a U.S. commitment to invigorate the economic dimension of the peace process on the Jordanian track following the conclusion of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty late last year.

There is no doubt that the meetings and dialogues His Majesty King Husayn held with U.S. leaders of various ranks and positions have decisively contributed to bolstering the U.S. understanding of Jordan's role, needs, and aspirations at a time when the Middle East is standing at the threshold of major changes in the wake of the considerable progress made along the road of peace.

In addition to the topics listed on the agenda of bilateral relations, which acquired new momentum during this visit, Jordan has several other regional needs. These include the entrenchment of the pillars of peace, the completion of the peace process, and the establishment of substantive regional cooperation.

Therefore, it was only natural for the agenda of the Jordanian-U.S. summit to include, in addition to bilateral relations, other topics of economic and political interest to Jordan, such as stability, the resumption of the development process, and the attainment of an advanced stage of comprehensive regional cooperation.

The United States' economic support for Jordan, the alleviation of the burden of its foreign debts, the fulfillment of its legitimate defense needs, and, most importantly, the commitment to continue its vital role within the framework of the peace process require an active U.S. role that exceeds promises and pledges and includes substantial and practical steps on the ground.

Extradition Treaty With United States Signed

JN2803205295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Mar 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the United States signed an extradition treaty in Washington tonight.

The agreement was signed by Jordan's ambassador to the United States Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah. Justice Minister Hisham al-Tall said the treaty will go into effect after it is ratified by the U.S. Congress and the Jordanian Parliament.

The cabinet had earlier approved the draft accord and assigned Dr. al-Tarawinah to sign it.

This is the first such treaty to be signed by the two countries.

Regent, Army Commander Meet With U.S. General

JN2803182995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al- Husayn, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court today General Binford Peay III, commander in chief of the U.S. Army's Central Command, and his delegation.

They reviewed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and promote them. They also discussed aspects of military cooperation and the need to exchange expertise in order to increase the efficiency of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani, adviser to his majesty the king; the U.S. charge d'affaires; and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received Gen. Binford and his delegation in his office at the General Command today.

Staff Gen. al-Ka'abinah briefed the guest on the regional situation in general, the region's strategic importance, and the human role the [Jordanian] Armed Forces are playing to preserve security and peace in various parts of the world. The two sides also discussed aspects of cooperation and coordination and issues of mutual interest.

The guest and his delegation listened to a military briefing on the Jordanian Armed Forces' organization and development. The meeting was attended by the commander in chief of the Royal Ground Forces, some assistants of the chief of staff, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Gen. Binford arrived in Amman yesterday evening. He was welcomed by Staff Gen. al-Ka'abinah, the chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces, the assistant chief of staff for intelligence, and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Cassation Court Repeals Decision on 'Afghans' Case

JN2903111995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Court of Cassation has decided to repeal the decision issued by the State Security Court in the "Jordanian Afghans" case. The Court of Cassation returned the case to the State Security Court to hear the testimony of certain witnesses whose testimony was not heard during the trial. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Columnist Views Perry's Tour, Iranian Threats

NC2903103595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 15

[Article by Muhammad Shuraydah: "A Tour of Intimidation and Marketing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The declared objective of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's Arab Gulf tour is to reiterate the U.S. request to obtain military facilities in the military bases and ports of the Gulf states. Perry's objective is a link in the chain of steps to guarantee U.S. continuous control over the oil fields and oil supply lines in the region.

The purpose of the U.S. defense secretary's tour could be classified as a part of the long-term objectives. However, the pressing current objective of the tour, which cannot be isolated from the striking U.S. moves in the region—Secretary of State Christopher's recent visit and Vice President Al Gore's current visit—is apparently embodied in the following two interrelated issues:

1. To complete instigation against Iran within the context of the U.S. policy to isolate that country and impose an international or Western boycott on it.

2. To promote new U.S. military deals with the Gulf states.

The warning against the Iranian threat and covetous designs against its Gulf neighbors constituted the common denominator between the statements made by Perry and those made by other U.S. officials before and during the tour. Although the U.S. defense secretary refused to link the objective of his tour to marketing U.S. weapons when he said that his job is not to sell weapons, all facts run counter to his remarks.

Perry's tour coincided with the opening of the IDEX 95 air defense fair, which turned into an arena for competition between the U.S. and European arms companies. The companies struggled to win deals with the host country, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], whose budget was not greatly affected by the second Gulf war, whereas the budgets of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were, according to expert assessments.

Within the context of the campaign of instigation against Iran, Perry did not hesitate to resort to extortion to promote U.S. weapons. He accused Iran of massing troops and moving missiles and chemical weapons to the Strait of Hormuz and to other islands, including Abu Musa Island, over which Iran and the UAE are in dispute.

Perry has succeeded in killing two birds with one stone. First, to intimidate the European states, whose companies are concluding deals with Tehran to develop the Iranian oil fields. Perry's warnings that the Iranian moves threaten oil shipments are aimed at making the European states revoke their contracts with Iran, especially after the U.S. calls failed to achieve this goal following the cancellation of the Conoco contract.

The second bird is to force the UAE to opt for U.S. Seahawk helicopters and purchase 12 of them in the amount of $300 to $350 million, in addition to other hardware.

It is worth noting that Perry's statements in Manama and Abu Dhabi were instigatory, extortive, and contradictory. If the U.S. secretary sees the Iranian measures as far exceeding any logical defensive requirements and possibly representing a threat to the navigation in the region, how can Perry explain the arms deals that the United States and the West had imposed on the Gulf states, and whose size has been increased by 80 percent over the past five years?

Hizballah Leader Denies Contacts With U.S.

LD2803195095 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, March 28, IRNA—Head of Lebanon's Islamic Amal Movement Husayn Musavi in Ba'albek on Tuesday dismissed news published by certain dailies alleging contacts between the Hizballah movement and the U.S.

Talking to IRNA, Musavi said like the Zionist regime, the U.S. is the enemy of all Muslims and freedom fighters. "We do not want to talk with the Americans as we reject negotiations with the Zionists," he made it clear.

Musavi also dismissed as "baseless and unfounded" recent claims of Zionist circles that Hizballah had its own prisons. He said Hizballah had some rehabilitation centers for re-education of mercenaries arrested by Hizballah forces.

Buwayz Assails Palestinian Leaders on Refugees

MM2803132495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Buwayz Tells AL-HAYAH: What Has Palestinian Leadership Done for Refugees?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Lebanese Foreign Minister Attorney Faris Buwayz has rejected Israel's plan on Palestinian refugees, which it presented at the meetings of the quadripartite committee concerned with the refugees' return. He stressed Lebanon's rejection of settlement, criticizing the Palestinian leadership and accusing it of ignoring the refugees' rights.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Cairo following the recent Arab League Council meetings, Buwayz said that "Christopher's failure to come to Lebanon is linked to the priority of the issues. But the priority does not mean the importance of the issues, but, rather, a kind of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

technical sequence in terms of dealing with them. Because resolving some of the issues opens the door to a solution to the other issues.

"We believe that the course of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations is a test of Israel's intentions. If they are sound intentions, and if this is reflected during the negotiations over the coming weeks, it will encourage us and open the door to our participation in the negotiations. But if these intentions do not exist, we will be spared participation in futile negotiations."

Asked whether Lebanon is still banking on the support and reconstruction pledges made at the 10th Arab summit or at the Arab foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting held in Damascus last July, he said: "Unfortunately, the Arab pledges that have not been fulfilled are the principle, and the Arab pledges that have been fulfilled are the exception. If they deal with us in the normal way, we will not complain more than others in this connection. The Lebanese will take account of this Arab position when dealing with Arab credibility."

He expressed his belief that Europe, "with its experience in the Middle East region and Middle Eastern issues and its historic presence in this region, understands the region's problems better than anyone else and can diagnose the problems and devise favorable solutions to them. We have since the Madrid conference asked the European states to play a more effective role. The problem was not to do with us, but the European states, which could not—despite the existence of the will—play a role. It seems that as of this moment Europe's ability to play such a role is not substantial.

"However, there are some initial signals indicating that Europe is trying to make a move. The European troika's visit to Beirut last month reflected for the first time Europe's intention of dealing with the bilateral file, and we hope that this is a new policy rather than an isolated step."

On Israel's plan, which it presented at the meetings of the quadripartite committee discussing the refugees' return, and which stipulates the return of 5,000 Palestinians a year—meaning that the last refugee returns after 300 years, and whether it is a circumvention attempt aimed at perpetuating the settlement idea, Buwayz said: "First, I ask the Palestinian leadership: How did you accept the Gaza-Jericho accord, whose 40 pages contain no more than three words on over 1 million Palestinian refugees, while 800,000 Palestinian citizens in Gaza and Jericho deserve 40 pages? At whom is this peace aimed?! And how can some of them impudently claim that they have found solutions to the Palestinian issue and signed these solutions, when these solutions do not cover over two-thirds of their people?

"As for the question of settlement, I do not want to blame Israel, nor do I want to assume that Israel is the one responsible for recovering the refugees' rights. Those responsible are the Palestinian leadership, the Arabs, then world public opinion. The question is: What has the Palestinian leadership done so far to guarantee the refugees' rights? With regard to Lebanon, the Constitution is clear. And if there is a question on which Lebanese of all groups, regions, religions, sects, and parties agree, it is their rejection of settlement."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Foreign Minister Briefs Cabinet on Peace Process

JN2803204895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at 1100 today. The Council of Ministers reviewed the work of the economic committee and discussed current political developments. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' presented a review of developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly those pertaining to the peace process. He also briefed the council on the results of the meetings the Arab League Council held at the level of the Arab foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Hebron Operation Called Result of 'Occupation'

JN2703095995 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Mar 95 p 9

[From the "Opinion" column by 'Ali al-Siwan: "Occupation=Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The day before yesterday [19 March], Palestinian national resistance men clashed with a number of Zionist settlers near Hebron, killing two and injuring six of them. Reports say that one of those killed worked as an assistant to the notorious Zionist rabbi, Moshe Levinger.

As usual, the herds of settlers went on the rampage and launched racist and savage acts against Palestinian citizens in various parts of the occupied territories.

Naturally, such an operation aggravated the already-tense relations between the two parties to the Oslo Agreement. The occupation authorities blamed 'Arafat because he is not implementing a provision in the Oslo Agreement that calls for erasing the will of resistance from the hearts of those whose territory is occupied and whose rights are usurped.

In the meantime, 'Arafat's credibility is falling under the strikes of the Palestinian nationalists who are staging resistance operations. Also, the credibility of the entire course that led 'Arafat to arrive at a separate agreement with Israel, is also being undermined.

The Hebron operation is, therefore, further proof of the correctness of the well-known equation—occupation equals resistance. The Hebron operation, which took place at a time when a lack of confidence between the two parties to the Oslo Agreement is growing, exemplifies a fact many people are trying to ignore—that there can be no peace with occupation. It also exemplifies the fact that the ground will move under the feet of those who deceive their people, and themselves, into believing that peace can be achieved without regaining both land and rights; a land that was occupied by war, and rights that are inalienable.

It is certain that the occupation troops still hold in their quiver many arrows that they can use against the Palestinian national resistance men. However, it is also certain that resistance will continue to direct painful strikes as long as aggression continues.

Commentary Ridicules Israeli Statements on Peace

JN2803180995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Israel has expressed optimism about the peace process following the Madrid conference, the Washington meetings, and the tours made by both former U.S. Secretary of State Baker and current U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. A quick review will clearly show that behind that optimism, marketed from time to time, there are also signs of pessimism, treachery, and attempts to disavow the requirements of peace and throw the ball into other parties' court.

Having achieved what it wanted from the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements, Israel is now focusing on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Sometimes it expresses optimism and at other times pessimism, and every now and again it appears lost between the two. Moreover, Israel allows its politicians to make conflicting statements intentionally and as they wish in order to deceive people, distort facts, and waste opportunities to make serious progress in the peace process.

Whenever the Israeli leadership becomes bankrupt, fails to avoid peace requirements, and finds itself obliged, due to Syria's serious and responsible position, to make various demands in exchange for withdrawal from the land, it quotes false circles, leaks false reports, and makes certain interpretations to harm Syria's position and its principles, which have become known, respected, and appreciated by the entire world.

Israel's known policy has led to these complications and problems and even to the current fatal stumbling block in the way of the so-called peace of the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah tracks. This is the policy that Israel is trying to impose on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in light of other tracks' weakness in shouldering their crucial responsibilities, as witnessed by the region's peoples.

However, developments in the peace process in particular and in the region in general make Israel's wishes impossible. Syria will not accept anything less than the peace conditions which the entire world has accepted. It will also never relinquish any land or any right regardless of Israel's attempts to wager on the time factor or to blackmail the U.S. Administration, which is sponsoring peace and which has drawn up the bases of peace and logical guarantees.

Therefore, the Israeli leaders' optimism or pessimism about the facts of peace are like air or soap bubbles that explode with the slightest puff of wind. Peace has its own bases, on which any solution should be built. He who markets optimism should provide its raw material, namely, a clear declaration of Israel's desire to carry out a total withdrawal from the land as the only prelude to achieving a true, just, and comprehensive peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Equitable Peace' Urged; Israeli 'Rumors' Denied

JN2903081195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Mar 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "The Clear Position," AL-THAWRAH says that Syria adheres to the principles of a just and comprehensive solution and the foundations of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says: As long as Israel continues to evade the substance of the conflict, the substance of the solution, the resolutions of international legitimacy, the will of world community, and the substance of the U.S. initiative, how can one talk about progress in the peace process?

AL-THAWRAH says: Addressing the substance of the conflict is a top priority for the peace process. The only way to do that is to end the causes of that conflict; that is, to terminate occupation and end the state of constant aggression Israel launches against the Arabs and against their national and pan-Arab security.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that as it confirms its adherence to the constants of a just and comprehensive peace, the principles of the peace process, and the requirements needed to achieve real progress in the peace process, Syria also confirms that it continues to defend its rights and the nations' rights, as well as its and the Arabs' dignity, existence, and future.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria will not forfeit a national or pan-Arab right. It will not bargain over territory, relinquish a principle, or yield to pressure or extortion. President Hafiz al-Asad has said: Syria does not follow anyone's example when it comes to crucial matters. It can never agree to any solution that does not meet our people's legitimate demands and preserve their and the nation's dignity.

Under the headline "The Balanced and Equitable Peace," [al-salam al-mutawazin wa al-mutakafi'] TISHRIN says in an editorial that the chance Syria has provided by agreeing to resume the Washington talks must not be wasted.

TISHRIN says: Israel, which on several occasions tried to push the Washington talks into a dark tunnel, was hoping to undermine and foil the peace process. On the other hand, Syria did its best, and everything it offered was positive and constructive.

TISHRIN says: Syria cooperated to formulate the measures and steps that can establish a balanced and equitable peace. It adhered to its right to the equality of reciprocal arrangements on both sides [tasawi al-tartibat al-mutabadalah 'ala tarafayy al- janibayn] in order to establish the principle that each party must be given its rights and to ensure that Israel is not given any state of superiority to impose its threats and conditions on Syria. This is because the Golan Heights are Syrian Arab territory, which must be returned in full to its owners. The same goes for southern Lebanon, which must be returned to its owners by implementing Resolution 425.

TISHRIN adds: In this case, Israel should not bargain over something that does not belong to it. Nor should it hold to any inch of the Syrian and Lebanese territory under security, vital, or geographic pretexts. Israel must also avoid covering its pretext to hold to the land with domestic Israeli rivalries or conflicts for power between the government and the opposition.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria's position is clear. It does not accept maneuvers or bargaining because it is based on national and pan-Arab rights and on the principles of international legitimacy. Syria has nothing to hide. Its course is frank and its policy is sound and sincere. When Syria stressed that peace is its strategic option, it sought, and still seeks, to bring the region an era of stability, security, and tranquility away from injustice, occupation, expansion, and aggression. Syria does not wager on illusions or dreams. Nor will it forfeit an inch of its land or a grain of its rights. No one can bypass Syria's role.

Under the headline "Israel's Rumors Are Worthless," AL-BA'TH discusses the false Israeli rumors on the peace process. The paper says: These rumors aim to confuse the situation and distort the truth. The rumors promoted by Israeli sources in the form of conditions are absolutely untrue because Syria does not accept, or yield to any conditions, and refuses to even discuss them.

AL-BA'TH says: Signs originating from Rabin's government confirm that the Israeli position remains unchanged. Hence, the peace process will continue to stand still and cannot be moved by rumors and statement which, on the surface, appear optimistic but are in truth worthless maneuvers. What is even more important is the fact that these rumors do not affect Syria's firm and frank position on the peace process.

Aims of 'Suspect' Israel-Iraq Contacts Examined

JN2403170695 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 14 Mar 95 p 9

[From the "Opinion" column by 'Ali al-Siwan: "Suspect Contacts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been repeated reports about secret contacts between Israel and Iraq. Recently, the talk about contacts began to deal with procedural matters.

In this context, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said he is ready to begin a dialogue with Iraq as soon as the sanctions are lifted. This is the point.

All reports of contacts between the Iraqi regime and the Israelis are always said to be part of Iraq's attempts—as AL-WASAT said in its latest issue—to "pave the road to Washington through Israel."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It is noted that the U.S. and Israeli reaction to the Iraqi enthusiasm has always been characterized by coolness and rejection, something that leaves no doubt that the United States and Israel are bargaining with the Iraqi regime about the price Baghdad should pay for lifting the sanctions.

Tariq 'Aziz's statements about lifting Israel from the list of states hostile to Iraq prove the Iraqi recognition of Israel is not the price demanded by the United States and Israel in order to make the Iraqi regime acceptable in Israel. The close relations between Baghdad and those Arabs in a hurry to normalize ties with Israel guarantee Iraq's recognition of Israel. Therefore, given the Iraqi ruler's long history of opposing supreme pan-Arab interests, one can conclude that the bargaining has another objective. The aim is to have Iraq play an active, effective and subversive role against the Arab forces, parties, institutions, and states resisting normalization and insisting on maintaining the supreme pan-Arab interests.

Observers unanimously agree that the Iraqi ruler is skilled at raising pan-Arab slogans and acting against them at the same time. That was visible in his alleged concern for the Palestinian revolution at a time when he was slaughtering its strugglers living in exile. The same applies to its war on the eastern flank in an attempt to prevent the addition of Iran's strengh to the Arab side in the conflict with Israel.

The same can be said of this regime's talk about Arab unity while it was invading Kuwait. It seems the bargaining is continuing. If it is otherwise, why the secrecy?

Paper Terms Arab League NPT Decision 'Painful'

JN2803214995 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial by 'Amid Khuli: "The Arabs: The Right To Perish or Survive"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab League, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, is the pan-Arab symbol of unity, affiliation, and common destiny. It has survived as a major pan-Arab establishment that proves the Arab nation's faith in its unity of blood, future, history, and territory. This establishment is now facing a difficult test which will prove the extent of seriousness of the Arabs that are affiliated with it in facing the challenge imposed on them at these difficult times. [passage omitted]

This test, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], is a very pressing issue which the League is facing during its golden jubilee. It appears that the Arab League is destined to grapple with this difficult test during these difficult times.

It is really painful that the Arab League should come up with a resolution giving each of the Arab states the freedom to sign or not to sign the treaty. This sounds as though the Arabs are in need of someone to encourage them to take parochial or separate decisions when they are in fact in dire need of pan-Arab decisions, of Arab solidarity at its minimum level; in need of a decision to define their fate, their death or survival vis-as-vis an Israeli decision that could annihilate them. The Arab League has given them the right to make such a decision, as though the question is linked to national—or to be exact—parochial sovereignty. [passage omitted]

I am not claiming that not signing the treaty or forcing Israel to sign it will automatically lead to the destruction of the Israeli nuclear arsenal or the imposition of strict controls on it. It is a matter of principle. We must lay bare to the whole world an unbridled nuclear example to which the world could give a special place in the future. The important thing is that Israel should be just a state in this world, not a creature from outer space that does not conform to the laws of the universe. At the very least, it should accept what the Arabs accept.

I think that the U.S. insistence on this matter is a kind of humiliation for the Arabs, looking down on them as second rate states. Otherwise, how can we explain this?

In justifying their statements, they resort to inventing imaginary dangers which justify to the Arabs the right of Israel to acquire nuclear weapons and denies them the right to acquire any weapon to defend themselves despite the fact that Israel is occupying their territory and expelling their people. Israel rejects any form of peace with the Arabs and with Syria and Lebanon while occupying their territory and expelling the people and subjecting them to all kinds of repression and oppression.

Yet we have to sign the treaty. You cannot take Israel as an example. It faces threats from Iran and Pakistan, and perhaps in the future from China and Russia as well. It is possible that Iran might acquire nuclear weapons in 20 years, but Israel, which already has a huge arsenal of these weapons, is another matter.

Is this not a difficult test for the Arab League on its anniversary? Must not the Arab states tackle a problem that harms their national security and the pan-Arab security in a serious fashion and with farsightedness and comprehensiveness? Should they not adopt a stand imposed by their feeling of danger represented by this immense threat of the Israeli nuclear arsenal? [passage omitted]

Arab League Support for Syria, Lebanon Viewed

JN2403151095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: On the 50th anniversary of the Arab League, the Arab League Council adopted a host of important resolutions which emphasized joint Arab coordination and adherence to Arab rights. The resolutions denounced Israel's intransigent and aggressive positions, whether those represented in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

continuing the occupation of the Arab territories or rejecting the treaty on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Arab League Council strongly supported the struggle of Syria and Lebanon for the restoration of all of the Golan and south Lebanon and the realization of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The council considered Israel's attempts to evade implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as an evasion of peace and a dangerous violation of the international community's principles and charters. It urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and force Tel Aviv's rulers to respect the resolutions of international legitimacy that do not approve occupation and encroachment on the nature of the occupied territories, changing its features, construction of settlements on them, and the imposition of Israeli laws on them.

The Arab League Council strongly condemned Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and considered this a threat to Arab security and to international security and peace. It urged the United Nations and the international community to employ effective pressure so Israel will sign the treaty and avoid exposing the Middle East to grave dangers.

Israel's procrastination on withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, its insistence on swallowing Arab Jerusalem, and its refusal to sign the NPT all show the aggressive ideology Israel is using as a firm line in dealing with the Arabs, and refute its peace allegations. Israel has not relinquished its expansionist and annexationist plans. It believes the only way to implement these plans is through stockpiling various kinds of conventional and unconventional weapons, and aborting the international peace efforts and the U.S. initiative which is based on Security Council resolutions.

At a time when this aggressive policy continues, Israel seeks to divide the Arab fold in line with the divide-and-rule principle. Hence, it was able to draw two Arab parties into signing unfair and inequitable agreements with the aim of swallowing as much as it can of the occupied territories, and besieging the positions of both Syria and Lebanon, which insist on restoring all occupied lands and implementing the Security Council resolutions in full. However, Israel's peace allegations were soon found to be false because it refused to go ahead in implementing Oslo agreement, although this agreement clearly ignores Palestinian rights. Israel escalated its aggressions against Lebanon and procrastinated in the talks on the Syrian track. It openly refused to sign the NPT, exposing the reality of its aggressive schemes and its alleged security concerns. Anyone who wants peace should work for peace and eliminate anything that obstructs the peace process. What Israel is doing is the outright opposite of this. It refuses full withdrawal from the occupied territories, continues to construct settlements, stockpiles various kinds of weapons, and drives the region into a nuclear race. All these practices are the outright opposite of peace and its principles and objectives.

Israel thought that, through false promises, deception, and malice, it could divide Arab ranks and isolate Syria and Lebanon. However, during the latest Arab League Council meeting, Arabs expressed support for the position of Syria and Lebanon and for their just rights to restore all of the Golan and south Lebanon, to remove the occupation, and to make the international community face up to its responsibility to establish the peace of right, justice, and legitimacy and to eliminate the Israeli nuclear threat to security in the Middle East and the world. The United States certainly shoulders a special responsibility to straighten things out because it is the main sponsor of the peace process and the party primarily concerned with banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Russian Envoy Cited on Upcoming Kozyrev Visit

JN2803190195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Ambassador in Damascus Viktor Gogitidze has asserted that Syria has a key role to play in the Middle East peace process and that it is impossible to achieve comprehensive peace without this important and effective role.

In a press interview with the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, today, Gogitidze highly valued President Hafiz al-Asad's stand on peace. He said that his excellency the president had stressed that peace was Syria's strategic option and that Syria would take the necessary steps to bring about just, firm, and principled peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Gogitidze also said that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's planned visit to Damascus tomorrow was gaining special importance because it would push the peace process forward and would promote relations between the two friendly countries, Syria and Russia, in all areas for the benefit of both nations.

The Russian ambassador pointed out that Kozyrev was bringing some views and proposals to Damascus on the peace process in general. He said that in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process, Russia supported just and comprehensive peace, the principle of land for peace, and the implementation of the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He said: This has been my country's clear-cut stand since the start of the peace process in Madrid.

Gogitidze stressed that partial and unilateral solutions would not achieve comprehensive peace in this sensitive part of the world, pointing out that from the beginning, the main aim of the process was to achieve just and comprehensive peace. He also stressed the need to continue the peace process despite difficulties, contradictions, and complications, praising Syria's sound position on this process.

Concluding, the Russian ambassador praised the historic friendship and cooperation between his country and Syria, calling for the promotion of relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It is noteworthy that Kozyrev's visit to Damascus is the second in five months. The delegation that will accompany him includes businessmen, men of religion, and representatives of the parliament and some Russian banks. Kozyrev is due to arrive in Cairo today on the first leg of his planned visit to several countries in the region.

In a statement made before leaving Moscow today, Kozyrev said that his country was seeking cooperation with the United States and other countries to put the peace process back on track. It has been decided that Kozyrev will visit Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

Speaker Addresses World Parliamentarians on NPT

JN2903090995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 93d conference of the Interparliamentary Union continued its meetings in Madrid yesterday. A People's Assembly delegation, headed by Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, attended the meetings.

The conference listened to a Syrian paper concerning the parliamentarians' role in freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by demanding that the states that have not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] sign it. The request to deliver the paper was approved by 692 votes, which, according to bylaws, is the required majority. Israel, Britain, the Netherlands, and Canada voted against.

Addressing the conference, 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah said: When we demand a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and when we demand that the states that have not signed the NPT sign it, we remind people of the importance of the Middle East in world peace.

He noted that all Arab states have signed the treaty, which will expire in April.

He said the only state in the region that possess between 200 and 300 nuclear warheads is Israel. He added that double standards are demonstrated by influential world powers, which seem to be very keen on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons but are doing nothing to dismantle Israel's nuclear weapons.

Qaddurah said: These double standards can be seen very clearly in the pressure exerted against the Arab states to again sign the NPT without guaranteeing that Israel will sign it. He noted that the advanced technology used in peaceful ends are barred from certain states, while the doors are open wide open for certain states that have nuclear weapons.

Construction Agreement Signed With Lebanon

JN2603203295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Syrian Arab delegation led by Majid 'Izzu Ruhaybani, minister of construction and building; and a Lebanese delegation by Muhammad Bassam Murtada, minister of public works, held a meeting at noon today. Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council, attended the meeting. During this meeting, the two sides reviewed cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the field of construction. They also reviewed ways of promoting and bolstering bilateral cooperation on the basis of the Treaty on Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation signed between the two sisterly countries.

An agreement for cooperation between the Syrian Ministry of Construction and Building and the Lebanese Public Works Ministry was signed at the Ministry of Construction and Building in Damascus at noon today. The agreement was signed for the Syrian side by Majid 'Izzu Ruhaybani and for the Lebanese side by Muhammad Bassam Murtada. [passage omitted]

The agreement stresses the need for and importance of bolstering bilateral ties, proceeding from the provisions of the Treaty on Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination. The agreement also stresses the importance of bolstering ties of cooperation between the two ministries within their specializations and of exchanging expertise between them in the various fields of construction to contribute toward Lebanon's reconstruction efforts. In this context, the Syrian side stressed constant readiness to extend expertise and to contribute to implementing some projects through the specialization of Syrian public construction companies.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Government, Taleban Groups Continuing Fighting

LD2803171995 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting goes on between the group called Taleban and the Kabul administration near Kowt-e 'Ashrow. The Taleban has reported that yesterday they repulsed an attack by the Kabul administration forces and forced them to retreat. The Kabul administration authorities claim that they have captured a number of strategic places in Kowt-e 'Ashrow, and that their forces are advancing. The Kabul administration started fighting in Kowt-e 'Ashrow on Sunday. But the Taleban says they enjoy high morale and need no reinforcement. Similarly, fighting continues between the Taleban and Ismail Khan's forces in Farah Province, and both sides claim advances. However, so far no authentic reports have been received in this connection. Another report says that the Taleban has the upper hand in the fighting in Farah Province.

Taleban Attack 'Foiled'; 50 Killed

LD2803180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the rebel Taleban launched in the country's southwestern zone was foiled and 50 Talebans were killed.

The military correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports from the southwestern region that yesterday afternoon Taleban embarked on an unsuccessful attack on areas located in the southwestern zone. This attack was defeated and they were forced to retreat and flee, as a result of a counterattack by the Islamic army. [passage indistinct]

The report adds that as a result of a counterattack by the forces of the Islamic army, the Taleban have abandoned their positions after suffering a heavy loss of life. The forces of the Islamic army have advanced 15 km into enemy territory. In the course of this counterattack, 50 of the Taleban militia were killed. [Passage indistinct] In the course of this operation, 10 Talebans were captured by the forces of the Islamic army. Two of these captured men are foreign subjects.

In the course of this counterattack four strong positions of the enemy were destroyed. [passage indistinct]

Kabul Ulema Council Issues Statement on Taleban

LD2803183695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the Kabul city Ulema Council: As the noble and faithful people of Afghanistan know, for some time simple and selfless Afghan students, who studied in religious schools of Pakistan, [words indistinct] have entered our country via southern borders in the company of militia, communists, and [words indistinct] to conduct rebellious fighting at the instigation of foreign espionage agencies, which closed down the schools. As a result of this un-Islamic and anti-Afghan action, hundreds of the students faced unknown fates and hundreds of others became an instrument in the hand of the enemies of Afghanistan, and defamed students of theology.

To salvage the students from this dangerous conspiracy of foreigners and other plots which can be anticipated, the Kabul Ulema Council decided to establish a seminary named Nomania with a capacity for 10,000 students and boarding facilities in order that the children of the country be educated by experienced domestic teachers. In the coming days, enrollment centers will be set up inside and outside the country for those who want to study in the seminary. It is to inform students and ulema inside and outside the country.

Rabbani Approves Promotion for General

LD2703185495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the basis of a proposal by the Ministry of Defense and with the approval of the presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the allocation of the rank of Lieutenant General for martyred Major General Mohammad Panah, commander of the 2d Division, Army 5th Corps, was approved for appreciation of his outstanding services, bravery, and devolution in defending the gains of the Islamic Revolution, the territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and in repulsing the hostile actions of the Islamic revolution's enemies. [passage omitted]

Commander Panah who had a major role in the victory of the Islamic Revolution and in defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was martyred on 15 March 1995, verily we come from God and to whom we return [phrase in Arabic], by the pseudo-Taleban rebels.

The Ministry of Defense and the department of political Affairs, Ministry of defense, have issued the following message on the occasion of martyrdom of this heroic commander: [passage omitted]

In the course of the mopping-up operation carried out in the west of Kabul, commander Panah has recently been martyred.

Bangladesh

Article Views Prevailing Crisis in Country

BK2903085995 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 17 Mar 95 p 1

[Article by Mobaidur Rahman]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh is being plunged into a devastating crisis. Supply of products that were exportable items only a few days back has become so scarce now that poor farmers have started looting these commodities from the streets. The price of rice has increased by five taka per kg or 200 taka per maund during the last five and a half months. Only recently Bangladesh exported 400,000 tons of fertilizers. Currently, farmers are unable to purchase fertilizers at the price fixed by the government, that is 250 taka for every bag containing 50 kg of fertilizer. Now, the farmers are compelled to purchase each bag of fertilizer at rates ranging between 350-500 taka. Thus, incidents of looting fertilizer have been reported for the first time since the independence of the country 23 years ago. Until last year, Bangladesh used to export paper and newsprint. Now, the country has started importing paper from India to meet the domestic demand. During the 'Id al-Fitr festival of 1994, the markets of the country were packed with locally produced sarees and clothes, but during the 'Id festival of this year Indian-made sarees and clothes occupied the markets, replacing the locally produced ones. In addition to rice, sugar, salt, and sarees produced in India, rice and wheat flour of Indian origin have recently flooded the markets of Bangladesh.

At a time when the economic foundation of the country has been shaken, the opposition parties have launched a vigorous struggle demanding the establishment of a caretaker government. Apart from this, the dramatic incident of the commencement of fresh inquiry into a killing [assassination of the former president, Ziaur Rahman] that took place 14 years ago has opened a Pandora's box in the country's politics. These swift developments in the economic and political arena of Bangladesh is leading the nation toward an uncertain and unknown future.

Several experts commenting on the prevailing food crisis in the country have said that foodgrain production was much below the target due to the severe drought that hit the country from July to October last year. The foodgrain production target for the current year has been fixed at 22.2 million tons. It would have been possible to reduce the effect of drought on foodgrain production if the flow of water from the Farakka Barrage [over Ganges River in India] was regular or had it been possible to irrigate the lands by making arrangements for conservation of water. Food production was reduced by 2 million tons due to the drought. It has been learned from reliable sources that in the month of September, the Ministry of Food cautioned the prime minister about the imminent foodgrain shortage. The ministry said that the foodgrain shortage would start in January. With a view to meeting the shortage, the former food minister made a proposal on 6 December to import 100,000 tons of wheat and 200,000 tons of rice. The government made a decision on 24 December to import 100,000 tons of wheat and 50,000 tons of rice. It has been reported that a warning was given regarding the impending foodgrain shortage at a joint meeting of the ministries of agriculture, food, finance, and relief held in October. It has been learned that the Finance Ministry rejected the concerns regarding the impending food shortage by terming them unfounded.

Experts who have made calculations in accordance with the assessment of the World Food Organization say that if we agree that 16 ounces of foodgrains is needed by every person daily then the total demand of foodgrains in Bangladesh will amount to 22 million tons during the fiscal year 1994-95. However, the food minister, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, has said the total demand of foodgrains is 19.4 million tons. The minister, in an interview with the BBC on 4 February, said that foodgrain production during the current year has been only 10 million and 69,000 tons. A press release issued on 10 March also quotes the same figure for the production of foodgrains. The minister said that foodgrain deficit is about 2.5 million tons, but experts say the deficit is 3.3 million tons.

According to the food minister, the foodgrain stock in the country is over 6.7 million tons. Apart from this, over 1.2 million tons of foodgrains have been imported. Hence, the total stock of foodgrains exceeds 7.9 million tons. Informed quarters do not rely on these statistics provided by the minister. They say that if the foodgrain stock is so huge then: Why is unrefined rice being sold at 560 taka per maund and superior quality rice between 700-750 taka per maund? The food minister has said that of the total foodgrain stock, over 6.1 million tons are sitting in private godowns. Experts also differ with these statistics provided by the minister. There are two opinions in this regard: First, the cow is in the shed, but there is no milkman to milk the cow. Second, if what the minister has said is true, then it can be said that the government has totally lost control over the foodgrain stock in the private sector. As a result, the private traders are hoarding foodgrains and increasing the prices in accordance with their wishes. Whatever may be the case, the foodgrain scarcity is gradually increasing, and it has now become a political issue.

An English-language weekly in its 17 February issue quoted the agriculture minister, Majidul Huq, as saying that the Single Super Phosphate, SSP, fertilizer imported from India and other countries is responsible for the fall in the production of foodgrains. This SSP fertilizer has been sold by saying that it is Triple Super Phosphate, TSP. The country had to pay double for importing this fertilizer, as the effectiveness of this counterfeit fertilizer is one-third of the original TSP. Informed quarters have asked: Who is responsible for the import of this fake fertilizer from India? It has been reported from various parts of the country including Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Bogra that the irrigation system has been severely affected due to a reduction in the underground water level. In spite of this, no effective steps are being taken to resolve the Farakka water issue. Only one or two statements are being occasionally issued in this regard.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In Serajganj district, seven fertilizer shops were looted, and one diesel store was set on fire on 22 February. In Gaibandha District, several hundred farmers laid siege around the offices of the deputy commissioner and the district executive officer to press their demands to make fertilizer available at a fair price. [Words indistinct]

A few years back the government withdrew the subsidy given to the agricultural sector. As a result, the price of fertilizers, seeds, irrigation pumps, and insecticides have increased. The agricultural subsidy has not been withdrawn even in India, Pakistan, and many developed countries. After lifting the subsidies, the government handed over the dealership of agricultural inputs to the private sector. Now the traders have freely increased the prices of these inputs and are keeping the money which was given as a subsidy. Despite this situation, the government has exported 400,000 tons of fertilizers. It wants to show that the economic condition of our country is good. This export of 400,000 tons of fertilizers has created a severe shortage of fertilizers in the country. This has led to the looting of fertilizer shops and the setting ablaze of the diesel store.

Since 1989, Bangladesh had not imported any rice. The demand for foodgrains for the fiscal year 1994-95 was estimated at 22 million tons, but the target of foodgrain production was fixed at 22.3 million tons. The economic survey conducted in 1993-94 said that Bangladesh would become self-sufficient in foodgrains during the current year. Government leaders in their speeches and statements also said that surplus rice will be exported to other countries. It has not been possible to export rice, but the country has started importing rice after five years. God alone knows that how many hundred thousand tons of rice would be imported.

The country has been exporting fertilizers since fiscal year 1987-88. During the current year, 400,000 tons of fertilizers have been exported. This is the first time that incidents of looting of fertilizers throughout the country have been reported in Bangladesh, which is a fertilizer-exporting country.

In fiscal year 1993-94, the country exported 3,000 tons of paper, but the amount of newsprint exported during this period is not known. A total of 1,500 tons of newsprint were exported during fiscal year 1992-93. The industries minister of Bangladesh, Zahiruddin Khan, during his talks with the former commerce minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, who is currently external affairs minister, in New Delhi last November discussed matters relating to increasing newsprint and fertilizer exports from Bangladesh, but the situation has changed in just three months. Now, we are eating Indian rice and flour, and writing on Indian white print and newsprint. This is the first time that Indian paper and rice has been imported to Bangladesh.

Besides this deterioration in the national economic situation, some noteworthy incidents have also taken place on the political front. These include the resignation of 147 MP's and the fresh inquiry that has started into a killing that took place 14 years ago. Intellectuals are keeping a close watch on the political and economic crisis into which the nation has been plunged and are observing in which direction we are moving.

India

Hillary Clinton Arrives on Goodwill Visit

Visits Orphanage, U.S. Embassy

BK2903104795 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 28—"Ta ta aunty..." As the convoy rolled away from the orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, wide-eyed children and nuns clustered to talk admiringly about their celebrity visitor.

It was a gentle, feminine Hillary Clinton who greeted India with suitable namastes [traditional Indian greeting]". On the second leg of her two-week-long trip to South Asia, the US First Lady, often pilloried by the Western media for her forceful utterances and her active role in the Bill Clinton administration, has made obvious attempts to play down her tough image.

She cooed, cuddled children, played with them and quietly prayed in the "chapel" before singing along with the nuns to the tune of I never fail to remember you [preceding six words in italics]. "She was so homely and in no hurry to leave," said Sister Jo Ann, the regional incharge for Missionaries of Charity. "She told us she felt greatly at peace here." The American embassy, on her behalf, has promised to donate 20 beds to the orphanage.

Ms Clinton, accompanied by daughter Chelsea, minister of state for public grievances Margaret Alva and Ms Robin Raphel, stayed there for 40 minutes. When she left, she missed by just a minute, a call from another celebrity: Mother Teresa called from Vietnam to say hello and welcome.

Next on her packed agenda was a brief lunch at US ambassador Frank Wisner's residence, a chat with American expatriates where she told them that her four-day visit and their efforts would help build ties of "friendship and partnership" between the two countries, and some jokes—at her own expense.

Talking to the embassy staff which has put in gruelling hours planning her India visit. Ms Clinton said she was so excited by her trip that she was thinking of returning to India some day again. "It (the visit) is much too short, and because it is so short I am already thinking about returning at some future date. But don't worry, she assured, "that's not going to happen any time soon," she said (??) laughter. "I know there is a collective sigh of relief when people like me leave," she said with a smile. "I understand that, I don't take it personally—I don't

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

take anything personally any more," she said, interrupted by applause, "I just keep rolling right along."

Some of the toughness surfaced once again when an interpreter at Prayas, a school for underprivileged children, failed to translate her speech.

"You were busy talking to someone else when I was speaking. Thank you for paying attention," she smilingly reprimanded, reducing the interpreter to spluttering silence.

She was not the only one who failed. Margaret Alva, translating a song for Ms Clinton, fell strangely silent as Ila Arun husked on a creaky cassette: Mhara prem ka lapat boojha de, dil dhak dhak kare. [words of Punjabi love song]

The minor glitches apart, the rest of the programme passed smoothly, like her earlier visit to the orphanage. After both she and Chelsea had signed earthenware pots made and presented to them by Prayas volunteers, they both tried on the jewellery, also made by the volunteers.

Showing off a white hand-painted scarf made by the children, Ms Hillary Clinton said what she had seen at the school was a "Marvellous example of how people working together can take care of each other."

"My country can learn a lot from your ancient country," she said.

"I cannot stress how important the linkage is between our country and this wonderful country.

"Human issues are the most important issues, and it is human issues that I hope to address," she said.

It is probably part of her new image that Ms Clinton, said to be the closest adviser to the President of US, will not be raising any contentious issues like the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], Kashmir or the missile development programme in her trip.

And there is more good news for India. When asked if she had liked India so far, Ms Clinton replied, "I have liked it so far, I will like it today and I will always like it tomorrow."

Police Break Up Protest

BK2903072495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP)—Several dozen supporters of an Indian opposition party were briefly detained here Wednesday [29 March] during a protest called to coincide with a visit by US First Lady Hillary Clinton, police said.

About 60 demonstrators were herded into police vehicles after some pushing and shoving near an auditorium where Clinton, who arrived here on Tuesday, was scheduled to address the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, police said.

The demonstrators, who were chanting slogans such as "Mrs. Clinton go home" and "Stop killing Iraqi women and children," were driven away from the site and released, police said.

The protest was organized by the Samata Party led by George Fernandes, a member of parliament who helped drive Coca-Cola out of India while in the cabinet in 1977 and is opposed to the entry of multinational corporations.

Fernandes is an outspoken critic of the economic reform policies of the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who has opened the door to foreign investment since taking power nearly four years ago.

The United States is among the leading foreign investors in India and Clinton's four-day visit is the first by a wife of an US president since Jackie Kennedy came to India in 1962.

U.S. Said Indirectly Responsible for 'Terrorism'

BK2903122995 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 21 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Secret of Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, has indirectly stated that the United States is partially responsible for the killing of the two U.S. Embassy personnel in Karachi. According to Bhutto, the excess of firearms, drugs, and terrorism in Karachi and Pakistan as a whole is the indirect outcome of the large-scale assistance which was provided by the United States to different Afghan groups during the Afghan war. Both the United States and its western allies returned to their respective countries after the end of the conflict between the United States and Russia, which was aimed at establishing their supremacy over Afghanistan. [sentence as published] They left behind a huge stock of firearms and a large number of unemployed and fortune- seeking Afghan mojahedin. A group of these people are now spreading communal and sectarian violence in Karachi. These fortune seekers include mercenaries who had lost their jobs and various groups of fundamentalist crusaders. These crusaders and mercenaries, who have no overseer, are creating tension and anarchy in Karachi. It is in this context that the killing of the employees of the U.S. Embassy took place. Hence, the United States cannot avoid its partial and indirect responsibility for the killings.

The statement made by Benazir Bhutto in this regard is partially correct. Bhutto has no problem regarding speaking the truth because the Afghan war, the establishment of Afghan refugee camps in the territory of Pakistan, the training and supply of arms to Afghan mojahedin, and the military operations against Kabul from Pakistan took place during the rule of her arch rival, Zia ul Haq. Bhutto can personally avoid responsibility in this regard, but the Pakistan Government cannot do so. Pakistan increased its military arsenal under the pretext

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the Afghan war and the threat posed by Russian dominance. On the same pretext, the United States also equipped this 'progressive Islamic state' with modern weapons and fighter planes. It is not true that all the mojahedin armed with U.S. arms are creating trouble for Benazir Bhutto or her People's Party. The suspicion that a mojahedin faction is being used by Benazir Bhutto for achieving her own political interests or that of a group is not baseless. There is also no scope for denying that Benazir's Pakistan is sending Afghan mojahedin and supplying automatic Kalashnikov rifles to Kashmir with a view to carrying out secessionist and terrorist activities in neighboring India and indulge in internecine and destructive activities in that country. This is known not only to Benazir Bhutto but also to the U.S. Administration. Despite this, the support and weakness of the United States for the Islamic state of Pakistan continues to remain firm as in the past. In the language of the game of soccer, the killing of two U.S. embassy staff may be described as an own goal, but this is not likely to bring any split in the relationship between Pakistan and the United States. It would not happen even if Benazir Bhutto blames the United States for this incident. The Afghan mojahedin and Islamic crusaders, who were once nurtured by the United States, have become guardianless now, but they have no dearth of patrons. Different political and social groups in Pakistan have deployed these hired crusaders in their struggle for power.

Today, the United States and other western democratic countries are reaping the fruits of their deeds committed in various places. In the past, these countries in their bid to establish their supremacy provided assistance to different antigovernment groups in countries which did not protect their political, military, or economic interests. In doing so, they did not differentiate between the democratic and the autocratic, or the secular and the fundamentalist. They projected the extremist, fundamentalist, and terrorist groups of Afghanistan before the world as freedom fighters engaged in an independence struggle and provided them with arms and financial assistance in accordance with their wishes. Earlier, similar incidents took place in Egypt and Algeria. At present they are taking place in Iraq and Libya. The outcome has always been the same. These western countries have now lost their interest in these groups and their movement as their [western countries] purpose and objective has been achieved. In the meantime, these groups, strengthened by the moral, economic, and military support, have spread their net of terrorism throughout the world. These countries took the initiative to curb international terrorism only after fundamentalist groups launched terrorist attacks in the United States and France. The developed, civilized, secular, and democratic countries of the West will have to bear the moral responsibility for many such incidents that may take place in the future. On several occasions, these countries, to achieve their narrow self-interests and destabilize the democratic countries of the Third World, provided assistance to the antiprogressive, fundamentalist, and terrorist groups and supported their movements. It is unfortunate that the blood of innocent people is being shed at present, but it is an historical atonement.

Bihar Issue Dominates Parliament Proceedings

BK2803130595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bihar issue again stalled the proceedings in both the houses of Parliament today. No legislative business could be transacted despite several adjournments following continued noisy protests by members from the Janata Dal and left parties who alleged that there is a move to impose president's rule in the state. The Lok Sabha, after three earlier breaks, was finally adjourned for the day shortly after 1600. Both the houses also could not take up the question hour. As soon as the two houses assembled in the morning, agitated members demanded suspension of the question hour to discuss the Bihar situation. Members belonging to the Janata Dal and left parties alleged that a deliberate attempt is being made to create a constitutional crisis in the state. They wanted the government to make a categorical statement that the counting of votes in Bihar will begin tomorrow.

The counting of votes for the Bihar Assembly elections will begin tomorrow. Our Patna correspondent, quoting state election office sources, said that counting for 98 assembly constituencies will be taken up as permitted by the chief election commissioner.

Meanwhile, polling in 47 assembly constituencies in Tirhut Division in the fifth phase of assembly elections ended this evening. The state election office told our Patna correspondent that more than 55 percent of voters exercised their franchise. The polling was by and large peaceful. In Raghopur assembly constituency, the patrolling magistrate for booth numbers 63 and 64 was arrested for adopting corrupt measures.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says imposition of president's rule in Bihar is the only option to avert constitutional crisis to pass the vote on account for the state. The party spokesman, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, told newsmen that had the party's demand been considered, the present dilemma could have been avoided.

Election Vote Counting Begins

BK2903031295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bihar has been brought under president's rule with immediate effect. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, issued a proclamation late last night on the recommendation of the union cabinet. An official notification said in New Delhi that the decision has been taken to seek a vote on account [as heard] before the 31st of this month for the state and to avoid a constitutional impasse following rescheduling of assembly polls. The term of the state assembly expired

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

on the 15th of this month, but the final phase of elections was completed only yesterday. Mr. Ved Marwah, former IPS [Indian Police Service] officer, and Mr. P.K. Mishra, retired IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer, have been appointed advisers to the Bihar governor. The vote on account for the state for three months will be presented to the parliament within the next two days.

Counting of votes in Bihar assembly elections began a short while ago in 230 assembly constituencies. According to an election commission announcement, clearance for the remaining constituencies is likely to be given after receiving reports from the state election machinery. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the Director General of Police, Bihar will take all steps to maintain law and order and ensure peaceful counting of votes.

Our Patna correspondent reports that all arrangements are complete to ensure smooth counting. Repolling is taking place today in 115 polling booths in 25 assembly constituencies.

President's Rule Imposed

BK2903012895 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 0030 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President's rule has been imposed in Bihar. On the recommendation of the union cabinet, President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma issued a declaration to this effect late last night. An official notification issued in New Delhi says it has been decided to pass the vote on account for the state [lekhanudan mangen pass karane] before 31 March in order to avert the constitutional impasse following rescheduling of assembly elections. The term of the state assembly expired on the 15th of this month, but the final phase of elections was completed only yesterday. Ved Marwah, former Indian Police Service officer, and P.K. Mishra, retired Indian Administrative Service officer, have been appointed advisers to the Bihar governor. The vote on account for the state for the next three months will be presented to the parliament within the next two days.

Commentary Views President's Rule

BK2903053595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Commentary by S.C. Bhat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President's rule has been imposed in Bihar amid unusual circumstances although it has been talked about for quite some time. First, president's rule was seriously considered when the life of the old state assembly was to expire on the 15th of this month. The governor's view that the Lalu Prasad Yadav government should continue until the new house was elected and a successor government was formed was accepted and the controversy subsided. But, as the polls were put off again and again, the issue hotted [as heard] up again. Now, it was the question as to how the state administration could be carried out without the annual budget being passed or even a vote on account being adopted.

All the while, the ruling Janata Dal [JD] and its Left Front [LF] allies accused the center of being in collusion with the election commission and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] asking for president's rule even as the polling was going on. Although the BJP is present in substantial numbers in Parliament and the Samata Party, which has also been asking for president's rule, has a significant presence, the NF [National Front] LF members carried the day in the two houses. They made their ire felt in the two houses in the past two days also.

The unusual character of president's rule arises from the fact that there is no apparent breakdown of the constitutional machinery. Only the problem of a financial vacuum has caused worries. If there is no assembly in existence before the 31st of this month, how is a vote on account to be passed. The Lalu Prasad Yadav government wanted the governor to issue an ordinance, but there were doubts about its constitutional validity. Although the JD and its left allies remained unconvinced, the center had to find a way out. This however, does not mean that the repeated postponement of the polls could not have been avoided. People all over Bihar have come out in large number to exercise their franchise. The JD has, however, the consolation that the chief minister's prestige has not suffered while the polling was in progress. The uncertainty about the imposition of president's rule, the repeated putting off of the polls, and the media hep about violence could have somewhat affected the standing of the government. In future, such contingency has to be avoided where a state is without an assembly.

Iran

Tehran Condemns Sanctions, U.S. Effort on Libya, Iraq

NC2903064895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently America has been holding discussions with other permanent Security Council members, Britain and France in particular, in a bid to gain their support for tougher sanctions on Libya. This effort by America comes at a time when air sanctions on Libya have gone on for three years and are to be discussed during the UN General Assembly session this month.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated last night that the air traffic embargo on Libya could no longer be tolerated, and that this year he may send Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by plane to break the embargo, even if this results in catastrophe.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political circles say that in its fresh efforts against Libya, Washington is trying to increase the economic pressures and oil embargo and thus place Libya under more pressure to hand over two Libyans suspected of involvement in the U.S. passenger plane crash in Lockerbie. Some 98 percent of Libya's national income comes from oil exports, most notably to Italy, France, and Germany. Libya, which is an OPEC member, exports about 1.5 million barrels of oil per day and has an annual oil income of $10 billion. Political analysts believe the continuation of air sanctions on Libya, a move considered to be a collective punishment, runs contrary to international laws and norms and that U.S. efforts to intensify this collective punishment show that the international system is alien to legality and subject to some power.

U.S. efforts to deprive the Muslim Libyans of their biggest source of income—oil exports; accusations, not definitive facts, concerning the involvement of two Libyan citizens in the Lockerbie incident; and America's similar act of imposing hunger on the oppressed Iraqi people through economic sanctions show that as long as Islam remains silent over the West's aggression against the Muslim nations, the West will resort to more oppressive assaults against the Muslim governments and nations, ignoring every humanitarian and legal regulation. This unfavorable situation can be stopped only when the world of Islam reacts in a coordinated and harmonious manner.

Navy Commander: U.S. Forces' Presence in Gulf 'Illegal'

LD2803133395 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, March, 28, IRNA—Senior Iranian military official warned on Tuesday [28 March] that the presence of foreign forces in the region was not in the interest of regional countries and that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns such an illegal presence. "The task of preserving the security of the region solely rest with the countries of the region," Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj, acting navy commander said.

Admiral Mohtaj, who is here to participate in a seminar on maritime medicine, said the U.S. by deploying troops in the region and raising divisive issues, actually wanted to find markets for its arms. He expressed hope that neighbouring countries would create an atmosphere of understanding and friendship, and try to consolidate the stability and security in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

U.S. Military Officials' Remarks Criticized

LD2803133795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON TIMES in its recent issue wrote that American diplomats and some military officials see the recent claim of the U.S. Secretary of Defense against Islamic Republic of Iran as a propaganda hue and cry.

The newspaper revealed that the remarks of the American officials against Iran are but rumors and that the Clinton government is projecting Iran as supposedly crisis zone. In the past few weeks American officials have announced their concern over the Persian Gulf issues in different manners. In so doing the U.S. attempts to bring her allies in line with the U.S. policy expressing concern over the so-called threats on the parts of Iran.

Although Iran has simply defensive purpose for strengthening its forces around the Hormuz Strait, the American concern is but a pretext to strengthen her military presence in the region. In fact it is the U.S. Government itself that creates the ground for greater insecurity in the Persian Gulf region.

Although the U.S. officials' hostile attitude towards Iran has been time and again surface among new circles, this time confession of the American newspaper, the WASHINGTON TIMES, according to some U.S. based diplomats, is worthy of attention. Informed observers say that the U.S. attempts to present an unreal picture of Iran and magnify so-called threats coming from the Persian Gulf region aimed to work out a solution to achieve her goals with which she is grappling.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. officer of the U.S. army, announcing that the measures taken by Iran are defensive, has said: I think this measure is simply a move for defensive protection against what we have attempted to do. From these remarks it is understood that they are also aware of the principled stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressing non-presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf region. These remarks indicate that they regard Iran's policy to be reasonable. From the remarks of the military officials it is also understood that more than anyone else they depict the U.S. Government as the main factor responsible for the propaganda commotion. They intend to call on the government to make a correct assessment of the outcome of the U.S. improper treatment so as to avert practices which would generate discontentment and repentance. Meanwhile, Western dailies in a general analysis of the statements of different officials of the Clinton government described them as lacking harmony and evaluation.

Nicosia Parade Disproves Western Allegations

LD2703113995 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, March 27, IRNA—Six French-made shore-to-shore Exocet MM 40 missiles bought by Cyprus last October were shown during a military parade in Nicosia Saturday [25 March].

An Iranian Embassy source in Nicosia told IRNA by phone Monday that the appearance of the sophisticated missiles in the parade proved that allegations by the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

French weekly magazine L'EXPRESS that the missiles were secretly shipped to Iran via Cyprus were absolutely false.

"We have nothing more to say on the issue," the Iranian source said, pointing that Cyprus and French governments had already strongly denied the groundless report.

Cypriot Government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides said the missiles arrived in Cyprus on October 11, 1994 and stressed that all arms purchases were designed to defend Cyprus.

The spokesman said countries which have sold weapons to Cyprus could send authorized representatives to inspect them.

According to Cyprus news agency ANA, it was the first time that army units took part in the traditional student's parade to mark the 174th anniversary of the 1821 revolution in Greece against Ottoman rule.

There was also a fly-past of two PC-9 aircraft and six-helicopter formation (French Gazelle and American Bell models) during the parade.

Weapons displayed included the French made AMX 30 B2 tanks, highly advanced 'Milan' and 'Hot-2' anti-tank rockets, 'Aspide' surface-to-surface air launchers, the Brazilian 'Cascavel' armoured vehicles, the French 'VAP' and Greek 'Leonidas' personal [as received] carriers.

Other sophisticated weapons included anti-aircraft 'Mistral' rockets, 155 mm canons, and 120 mm mortars.

Greek Defence Minister Yerasimos Arsenis represented Greece in the ceremony in Nicosia.

First Consignment of Ferro-Chrome Exported to Japan

LD2903112295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the first consignment of ferro-chrome, produced in the Islamic Republic of Iran, was exported from the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas. This 5,000 tonne consignment was loaded on an Iranian ship, docked at Shahid Raja'i jetty in Bandar-e Abbas, for export to Japan.

The country's first ferro-alloy mill is located in Abadan, which receives its raw material from the large mining complex of Fariab, in the town of Rudan, Hormozgan province. The complex was opened by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani early in the new year. The Abadan mill is capable of producing 15,000 tonnes of various ferro-chrome and ferro-manganese alloys per year for export and for the domestic market.

Nepal

'Feverish' Communist Efforts To Hold Power Reported

BK2503093395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0307 GMT 25 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, March 25 (AFP)—Nepal's four-month-old minority Communist government is fighting for its political life, using handouts and propaganda in its attempts to head off a growing threat from the opposition.

In order to woo voters, the the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government has handed out tenancy rights to 7,000 agricultural workers over the past three months and has pledged to give land to some 100,000 people in the next three months and to 400,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

The NCP-UML came to power on November 30 winning 88 parliamentary seats out of the total 205, not enough to form a simple majority government.

The Nepali Congress (NC) party bagged 82 seats while the royalist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) managed 20. The result: a hung parliament.

The new minority government won a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on December 22 last year as none of its political rivals was prepared to face another election so soon.

In its increasingly feverish attempts to garner public support, the government has introduced "ration cards" for the supply of rice, salt, edible oil and other daily necessities at subsidized prices.

The scheme will cost the public exchequer between 1.25 billion and 1.5 billion rupees (50 to 55 million dollars) annually, according to a Finance Ministry official.

The NCP-UML is also planning to import over 100,000 tonnes of rice from India and elsewhere to distribute to 38 drought-affected districts, suffering from an unusually dry monsoon season.

In case the handouts don't do the trick, the ministry of education and culture is sending out "cultural troupes" throughout the kingdom.

"The purpose of these cultural troupes is to influence voters living in the rural areas, by staging various left-oriented programmes," NC party activist Paresh Regmi said.

Another government initiative is the 800,000 rupee "Build Your Own Village" scheme for each of the 4,033 Village Development Committees.

The government maintains the special fund is necessary for the overall development of the country.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

But former Minister of State for Finance, Mahesh Acharya described the scheme as a waste of money aimed at furthering the political interests of the communist party.

Political observers here say the minority communist government cannot survive without the support of at least one of the two main opposition parties. Former premier Girija Prasad Koirala of the Nepali Congress, and RPP chairman Surya Bahadur Thapa have recently discussed the situation, an RPP source said.

Koirala on Thursday said that "the communist government has failed to fulfill its commitment and deliver the goods to the people.

"If the NCP-UML does not fulfill the conditions we laid down while extending our support during the vote of confidence, we may withdraw it," Koirala said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal has begun a tour of the southwestern districts, speaking of the conspiracy hatched by opposition parties to pull down the communist government, a party source said.

Adhikari on Relationship With India

LD2303183295 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr. Mana Mohan Adhikari, says his country will not allow any activities from its soil which may compromise India's security. Talking to newsmen in Kathmandu, he said he looked forward to his visit to New Delhi from the 10th of next month and will discuss trade, water resources, and other issues with Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao. He said there is no problem between India and Nepal which cannot be solved through negotiations. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that Mr. Adhikari will have two days of talks with Indian leaders during his visit to New Delhi.

Pakistan

Police Arrest Man for Contact With Ramzi, Kansi

BK2903093995 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Multan (Bureau Report)—The Federal Investigation Agency [FIA] in Multan arrested Akhtar Hussain Gilani, son of National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani's maternal uncle, in a dramatic raid on a big house on Bosan Road overnight and sent him to Lahore by plane. Police commandos were called in to assist in the arrest of Akhtar Hussain Gilani. The accused is suspected of having close contacts with Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf and Aimal Kansi. Akhtar Hussain Gilani was identified by Nadim Commando, the killer of two U.S. nationals [not further specified], following his arrest. Senior FIA authorities in Lahore informed the FIA Bank Circle that a huge sum of money was recently deposited in Akhtar Hussain Gilani's bank account. The money is believed to be the amount of compensation received by the terrorists.

Nadim Commando, the terrorist arrested in Lahore on charges of killing two U.S. nationals, confessed under interrogation that he too had contacts with Akhtar Hussain Gilani. The Multan wing of the FIA, on instructions from the FIA in Lahore, secretly sought assistance from the city police superintendent, who ordered the police station (?in charge) to keep police commandos prepared to help the FIA officers conduct the raid as soon as they were asked to do so. The FIA is also looking for a colleague of the accused, Kazmi, who is still at large.

Muslim Group Blames CIA for Karachi Murders

BK2903061995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—Muslim Muttahida Mahaz Pakistan [MMMP] has alleged that CIA is itself involved in the murder of two American diplomats and deteriorating situation in Karachi.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday [28 March], Maulana Murza Yousaf President MMMP observed that America wants to use Karachi for its nefarious designs. He said US is in search of justification for sending UN forces here.

He further alleged that present government is also involved in the conspiracy. He said that in the past too, America made its own men scapegoat to gain its ends.

He stressed the government not to bow US otherwise people would not spare the rulers. [sentence as published]

2 More FBI Agents Arrive; New Leads Reported

BK2803085195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Mar 95 p 12

[Report by Shakil Shalkh: "More FBI Agents for killing probe"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: As the joint Pak-US FBI investigation into the shooting of two US consulate staffers in Karachi this month is making no headway, two more agents of FBI are reaching Karachi Tuesday [28 March] to join the probe which is still without clues.

According to official sources, the arrival of these two FBI sleuths will raise the total present strength of FBI agents to seven, besides some forensic experts.

The presence of more FBI agents, said the sources, was required, as the new experts have to do something special in the ongoing investigation process, which has so far produced "no positive results:"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Official sources do not rule out the induction of more FBI agents to assist Pakistani authorities and investigating officers to find out "substantial clues" about the unidentified killers.

Meanwhile, in the context of the campaign underway by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against organized terrorists, official sources told The News Monday that "we have so far raided all the suspects in eight major cities of the country." The combing operation is going on simultaneously by FIA's special teams in Karachi, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, Faisalabad and Kasur, added the sources.

The scope of this crackdown on terrorists will be further expanded by including several other cities to smash the terrorist organisations, said the sources. "These organisations have links abroad, but presently it is difficult to name any country because no one is sure as to whether the arrested suspects are unfolding the truth or not" said the sources.

With FIA now concentrating fully against terrorists, the official sources disclosed that "about 20 people from different cities have been picked up for investigation and one of them is Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf's close relative."

"We have received several new leads which the arrested people have provided and every lead is very important for investigation," said the official sources.

About Ramzi, the official sources said that he has two brothers - Abu Sahman and Abdul Karim. Both Ramzi and Abu Salam have married the sisters of one Abu Hashim, added the sources.

The Ramzi family, said the sources is settled in Turbat after it entered Pakistan following break out of the Gulf war. "Most of its male members started joining one particular faction of Afghan groups for fighting in Afghanistan and since 1992 they are actively participating in the endless fighting in Afghanistan," said the sources.

According to official sources, startling disclosures are being made by arrested suspects and the whole efforts has now started producing results.

Conference Urges Effective Measures for 'Terrorism'

BK2703141295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The all parties conference held in Karachi yesterday, which continued till late in the night, has demanded of the Sindh Government to take more effective measures for restoration of peace in Karachi, so that the people could live in tranquillity, free from fear of terrorism. In a resolution, the conference demanded that those involved in terrorist activities should be crushed with full force. The conference was of the view and agreed that terrorism and politics were two different things which should be viewed separately from each other. The conference appealed to all the political parties and groups to point out any criminal elements which may have proliferated into their ranks, so that they could be brought to book. It also appealed to all the political parties to avoid display of any arms during their public meetings and to discourage such tendency.

Another resolution passed at the meeting said a major factor contributing to lawlessness in Sindh was the presence of a large number of illegal immigrants in the city. It demanded of the government to expedite deportation of such foreigners.

The conference felt that consensus of political parties on national issues was essential and it appealed to the political parties which did not attend the conference to join the process of dialogue in the interest of democracy and democratic institutions. The meeting suggested formation of peace committees at district and thana [police station] levels with the inclusion of eminent citizens and representatives of political parties attending the conference in order to boost the efforts for restoration of peace.

Hillary Clinton Concludes 2-Day Visit

Visit Seen as 'Positive Sign'

BK2803090695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "First-Hand Knowledge"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For Mrs Hillary Clinton who, according to Press reports, wanted to have first-hand knowledge about women's development in Pakistan, it must have been a matter of satisfaction to see a large number of professional women at the special luncheon that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had hosted in her honour. There she also got an account from the PM herself on how her government is trying to improve the condition of women by "launching a frontal assault on institutional discrimination" against women in this society through such measures as guaranteeing ten per cent of the Federal bureaucratic jobs for women, setting up a women's bank and police station stations, and inducting women into the higher judiciary. For someone like Mrs Clinton who may be unfamiliar with the women's issues in this country all of this must have sounded quite impressive though there are many here who think of these measures as merely cosmetic and, in particular would have liked to remind the PM about the plight of women who are victims of the discriminatory laws enacted during the repressive rule of General Ziaul Haq, for the repeal of which our woman Prime Minister has so far shown no great effort. For pursuing those issues though, there has to be another time and another forum.

Given Mrs Clinton's level of participation in the affairs of her husband's administration back home, the PM could not but take the opportunity to raise the bilateral issues of concern to the two countries. She brought up

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issues ranging from the Indian brutalities in Kashmir to the Pressler Amendment, from the problem of drug trafficking to the F-16s for which Pakistan has already paid up, but because of the Pakistan-specific Pressler Amendment the US would neither release the planes nor return the money. Of course, Mrs Clinton is not in a position to play a direct role in the resolution of these issues but the fact that she is not a traditional wife but a person whose intellectual prowess is highly valued by her husband, the exposure that she got to the Pakistani perspective on these problem areas may influence the US President's perception on them during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's upcoming visit to the US. Since included in the First Lady's entourage was also the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Ms Robin Raphel, her presence should not only have enhanced Mrs Clinton's understanding of matters of bilateral interest but also provided her a chance to have an informal exchange with the Pakistani side about what to expect during the PM's visit. This seems important, particularly in view of the reports that the US administration is currently in the process of trying to have the Congress make changes in the Pressler Amendment that can help resolve some of the outstanding bilateral issues such as the sale of the F-16s and yet address the administration's concern about nuclear non-proliferation in more effective ways than Pressler, which from the US' own standpoint has done more damage to that goal than any good. Whether it benefits Pakistan in any direct way or not, Mrs Clinton seems to have had a good visit here as she and her host got along famously well, which in itself is a positive sign in terms of creating mutual goodwill and making the prospects of Ms Bhutto's U.S. visit look quite promising.

Asif: 'Favorable Environment' Created

BK2903062695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali says the just-concluded two-day visit of the US first lady has created a "favourable environment" in the Pak-US relations on the eve of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's official trip to the US.

"We attach great importance to Hillary's visit which has created warmth and goodwill in the bilateral relations," he told The News Tuesday [28 March].

Asif felt her visit would help create a better awareness among the US administration and American people about Pakistan and its problems. He was of the view that her trip had dispelled the impression that the people on Pakistan were against the US.

He was satisfied to note that by covering their heads, Mrs Clinton and her daughter showed complete respect to the holy place and Islam when they visited Faisal Mosque.

Throughout her visit, the US first lady's engagements remained confined to cultural, social and non-political events and she did not make any public comment on any regional or international issue concerning Pakistan in any way. It was apparently not in her brief to comment on them. She played just the role of a good will ambassador.

However, availing of her presence Pakistan apprised her of its views on the Kashmir dispute and the major irritants caused by the Pressler Amendment in the Pak-US relations. Islamabad's emphasis has been that either the stuck up military hardware and 38 F-16 aircraft should be released or the money paid for them should be returned.

During her 20-minutes meeting, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also referred to the problems the US investors were facing about the realization of their pledges due to the Pressler Amendment.

Officials believe that since Mrs Clinton is considered the "eyes and ears" of her husband, she would convey to him her observations and impressions which may prove beneficial for Pakistan. President Bill Clinton reportedly considerably relies on the first lady's opinion on important matters. "We were more than satisfied over the mere fact that the visit took place because it became quite uncertain after the assassination of two staffers of the US Consulate, Karachi, just before it," an official said. "In case of cancellation of the visit, the purpose of the assassins would have been served which would have brought immense embarrassment to Pakistan."

Officials say that the fact that she went ahead with her original schedule of the trip signalled the message that Washington wants to have good relations with Pakistan.

Editorial on Bhutto's 'Humiliating' Visit to U.S.

BK2603095495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Mar 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] How many foreign trips does it take to draw foreign investment? The answer is a matter of opinion. Malaysian or Thai leaders, who, in less than two decades, have transformed their countries partly by drawing a lot of foreign investment, will probably say: not many. This is not really surprising because one can't imagine that a head of state, particularly the head of state of a developing country, must have so much work to do at home that it should be hard for him or her to go abroad often for long periods. But, of course, this is a matter of opinion. For if the same question were to be put to Pakistani leaders, the answer would be many, very many., However, what makes the Pakistani answer a bit less authentic than the Malaysian is the fact that no investment has as yet actually occurred in Pakistan. It is all on paper. Nevertheless, our leaders insist that they are right and, in due course, the money will be projected from the paper to the ground. While the people of Pakistan await the first such projection, our leaders are off to yet another destination.

This time it is America. In the last few weeks, the Prime Minister [PM] has been to the Philippines and Singapore, and the President went to Copenhagen. Not all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

these trips were meant to draw investment, and barely one of them did. The trip to America, however, is meant to be different. For one thing, it is not going to be of a four-to-seven-day duration like the others (which are long by other countries' standard of three days). This trip is going to last two weeks. Certainly, during that period there will be work here in Pakistan that will need the Prime Minister's attention. After all, the people of Pakistan entrusted her with the PM's office to do the work required by that office. State visits abroad, it can be argued, are part of that work. But then the official state visit arranged for the Prime Minister by the US government is of the standard three-day duration. The other eleven days during the proposed trip comprise a "private visit." The Prime Minister has claimed that she is going to lobby for Pakistan with various US representatives during that period. There are some serious problems with this explanation.

First of all, it is not appropriate for the head of state of a country to go about the business of lobbying in person. To say the least, it is humiliating for Pakistanis to think of their Prime Minister being in another country for eleven days without an official invitation from her counterpart. Her status for those eleven days will be that of a common tourist. Who is to say that when she goes about lobbying, she would even be given the due protocol and respect? In fact, can any protocol be sufficiently reverent for our top representative in the absence of an invitation by the top American representative? As soon as the Prime Minister of Pakistan is not a guest of the White House, she should not remain in the United States.

Secondly, lobbying is a mean and tricky business. It requires persistence and continuous presence of the party that wants its cause to be promoted in the US legislature. It also requires an experienced hand at that sort of thing. Accordingly, it is for the Pakistani embassy in Washington and its various Consulates spread throughout the United States to take care of this dirty business. The embassies and the consulates, over-staffed as they are should be streamlined to employ people who are capable of maintaining and running an effective machinery for lobbying. Pakistan has already lost too much of its self-respect to be further humiliated by the sight of its Prime Minister going about begging with unknown representatives of the American people.

Thirdly, we have heard of a planned visit by the Prime Minister to Disney Land. This will certainly not serve the cause of lobbying. However, it may serve two other causes: the Prime Minister's three children, and her recently revealed passion for amusement parks. None of these can be considered to be her state duties. Unless, of course, we toe the official line that she is going to Disney Land to bring it home. Certainly, we need move parks in this country, perhaps even a Disney Land. But isn't there a problem of priorities here? Do we need a Disney Land before having an industry or productive agriculture and an education system? This is not merely a problem, this is a crisis of priorities. It is also a crisis of identity. Leisure and amusement industries have developed in advanced societies after centuries of hard work and industrialisation. We seem to want to have such pleasure industries while being an agricultural society. We are seeing ourselves in the wrong mirror. Let us put in the hard work first.

Pakistan is a poor country. It needs its leaders' attention. It cannot afford to let its Prime Minister and President be out of the country half the time. The cost of these trips, too, is a burden. Things have gone so far now that even foreign governments feel our leader's trips are too long. Recently, the United States recommended that the Prime Minister cut short her proposed two-week visit. The excuse given for this recommendation was the difficulty in making security arrangements for her beyond the official three days. Their was even a hint that perhaps the Prime Minister should mind more the situation at home where American diplomats are being murdered. Our leaders will therefore do well to avoid unnecessary visits abroad and to arrange short trips that do not ask for such humiliating recommendations.

Editorial Hopes Visit To Aid Cooperation

BK2903120395 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 29 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan-U.S. Relations Will Continue To Grow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. First Lady Mrs. Hillary Clinton has left for India after concluding a two-day visit to Pakistan. During her stay, Mrs. Clinton held talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad, attended a luncheon given by the latter, visited training and educational institutions for women and girls, and had a glimpse of the daily life of rural folk in Lahore. She also attended the super dinner [preceding two words in English] given by the Punjab governor at the Shahi Qila, besides participating in a function at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Addressing the university function, Mrs. Clinton expressed her confidence that the age-old ties of friendship and trust between Pakistan and the United States will become stronger in future. She said the U.S. is waiting to welcome Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the same manner as the Pakistani people hailed and welcomed the U.S. First Lady. Mrs. Hillary Clinton said there are tremendous prospects for the world's advancement in the next century, but the shortage of resources and ethnic prejudices are the kind of problems which no country can overcome single-handedly. Violence, illiteracy, and terrorism affect all. The nations of the world will have to accept the challenge while maintaining their respective identity. It is also our collective responsibility to ensure a better future for children. To fulfill children's dreams, the international community will have to work together to provide materials and resources with which to educate them, keep them healthy, and create employment opportunities for them when they are grown up. Mrs. Clinton expressed her happiness at the fact that effective

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

steps are being taken to protect women's rights in Pakistan. The brief opportunity that the U.S. First Lady had to study our economic and social conditions during her visit to Pakistan will provide a fillip to the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the United States and Pakistan.

Hamilton's Letter on Pressler Amendment Viewed

BK2203132295 Lahore JANG in Urdu 16 Mar 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Pressler Amendment—Prominent U.S. Congressman's Suggestion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even though the restrictions imposed by the United States in 1990—after the end of the Afghan war—on U.S. military and economic aid to Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment remain fully intact, some indications lead one to believe that certain important sections of the U.S. Administration and the Congress have begun to realize and acknowledge that the continued application of the Pressler Amendment in its present form is not only not good for the U.S.-Pakistani relations but it is also against the United States' own objectives and interests. The first clear indication of the above trend emerged during Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Pakistan, when he admitted that in view of its security requirements, Pakistan cannot forgo its nuclear program unilaterally. A few days later, William Perry described the Pressler Amendment as a "blunt weapon" whose existence hurts but does not bring any benefit. Meanwhile, two officials of the U.S. State Department—Miss Robin Raphel and Joseph Nye—while testifying before a Congressional subcommittee, have described the Pressler Amendment as an ineffective and unfruitful piece of legislation and acknowledged that the amendment has been affecting relations between Pakistan and the United States. In the meantime, reports have also come in that the U.S. Administration, with the cooperation of some important circles in the Congress, intends to try to effect certain changes in the Pressler Amendment.

Sometime ago, Lee Hamilton, a prominent Congressman and former chairman of the powerful U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, wrote an article in the NEW YORK TIMES calling for repeal of the Pressler Amendment. He has also written to the Senate Subcommittee on Near East and South Asia, saying that the Pressler Amendment has now lost its efficacy, if it ever had any. It is not only affecting Pakistani-U.S. relations but also causing two major harms. First, due to the stoppage of the U.S. military aid, Pakistan's conventional defense capability is becoming weaker and this is forcing Islamabad to take measures to further strengthen and protect its nuclear program. Second, India--knowing that Pakistan's military and economic aid has been cut off and its nuclear program is frozen—is not ready to enter into any negotiations to limit its own nuclear program. This is hampering the realization of the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, although the foremost aim of the Pressler Amendment was to check the spread of nuclear weapons. Lee Hamilton's thinking is very similar to the standpoint which Pakistan has been maintaining since 1990. Lee Hamilton has also said that Washington's unfriendly attitude toward Islamabad is compelling Pakistan to increase its tilt toward China, Iran etc. Hamilton has acknowledged that Pakistan has not transferred the secret of its nuclear capability to any another power and has also appreciated Islamabad's responsible attitude in this regard. The U.S. Congressman has provided several arguments in his letter to substantiate his claim that friendship with Pakistan is of extraordinary importance for the United States to achieve its extremely vital objectives. On this basis, he has proposed the following: U.S. companies investing in Pakistan should be given permission to secure insurance coverage which is currently not being provided due to the Pressler Amendment; the limited economic aid for social welfare programs in Pakistan be increased; the annual fee of $50,000 per aircraft being charged for the safekeeping of F-16 planes should be waived; Pakistan should be allowed to purchase certain military supplies; military equipment sent to the United States for repair before the enforcement of the Pressler Amendment and subsequently withheld should be returned to Pakistan; and the training of Pakistani pilots in matters relating to safety measures to be taken by pilots while flying military aircraft should be resumed. Lee Hamilton has stated in his letter that in principle he is in favor of the repeal of the Pressler Amendment, but, in case, it is not possible to do so at the moment, then the aforementioned six steps must be taken.

We understand that Lee Hamilton's letter is fair and realistic and the U.S. Government and the Congress should consider it sympathetically. Hamilton has admitted that notwithstanding Washington's inappropriate attitude, Pakistan has done everything on its part to maintain cordial relations with the United States. Therefore, justice demands that Washington should also end its unfair and discriminatory attitude toward Pakistan. It should be hoped that during Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States, steps will be taken to translate into action the very fair and appropriate suggestions made by Lee Hamilton to the U.S. Government and the Congress.

Paper Welcomes Steps To Produce Fighter Jet

BK2503083995 Lahore JANG in Urdu 20 Mar 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Production of Super-7"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistan Air Force [PAF] Chief, Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak, has said that Pakistan and the People's Republic of China are cooperating to produce a fighter aircraft—Super-7—using medium technology. The U.S. restriction on the supply of F-16's has badly affected our air defense capability, while several of our F-16 planes have crashed and been destroyed in a number of mishaps. It has therefore become highly essential to induct new, sophisticated

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

fighter aircraft into the Pakistan Air Force. Pakistan has held negotiations with France and several other European countries to fill the gap, but because of the extraordinarily high prices of these aircraft, Islamabad has not yet been able to acquire any of them. An alternative solution would have been to acquire the fighter aircraft from Russia, but the shift in Moscow's political and military priorities and its renewed, extraordinary tilt toward India have also eliminated that possibility. Another problem that the country is encountering after purchasing foreign aircraft is the acquisition of spare parts. It is no secret that during the India-Pakistan wars, the Western countries had imposed restrictions on the supply of spare parts to Pakistan, thereby adversely affecting our military capability. The only alternative, therefore, is to try and achieve self-reliance in the field of aircraft production.

As a first step, Pakistan has succeeded in producing a trainer aircraft—Karakoram-8—with the cooperation of China and has now started work to produce the Super-7. This is a welcome and heartening step because until now only the Army and the Navy have been able to make progress toward manufacturing defense equipment within the country and the PAF had been totally dependent on foreign supplies, while our adversary, India, has been making fighter aircraft within the country for a long time. We hope that all stages of the production of the Super-7 will be completed soon and a day will dawn when the nation will hear the good news that we have succeeded in producing a fighter aircraft wholly within our country. At the same time, we suggest that efforts should also be made to start production of other military aircraft and helicopters inside the country with the cooperation of other friendly nations.

'Black Monitoring Box' To Be Installed at Siachen

BK1803161395 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 15 Mar 95 pp 8, 6

[Report by Nawed Anwar/Naz Butt Naji]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muzaffarabad—In the wake of pressures from the global powers, a black monitoring box [preceding three words in English] is being installed at Siachen, which will be used to monitor not only the movements of the Pakistani and Indian forces but also China's nuclear program. This was disclosed by Sardar Mohammad Ateeq Ahmad Khan, the son of Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, prominent Kashmiri leader, and member of the Kashmir assembly, in an exclusive interview with daily PAKISTAN. He said that the Indian and Pakistani forces are being pulled back in Siachen. It is being done, they claim, to monitor the movements of the forces of the two countries. However, when after some time it is learnt that the black box is actually monitoring China's nuclear program, Pakistan will also lose its friend, China, in the region.

The Kashmiri leader said that because of the instability in Pakistan, no government is able to counter the Indian policy on Kashmir. Actually, neither a Pakistani Government, nor any political party has till today paid any attention toward formulating a policy on Kashmir. Jamaat-i-Islami is the only Pakistani party working inside Kashmir. He claimed that the instability in the country and issues such as Karachi, Gwadar, and the seismic center have distracted people's attention from the Kashmir dispute, and now the installation of the black box will raise a new issue. He said we must not harbor any suspicion about the role of the international community. We should first put our house in order before asking the Islamic community to do anything for us. We continue to increase our economic ties with India but urge the Islamic community to enforce an economic boycott of that country. In this situation, how can we accuse the Islamic countries of not doing anything?

Answering a question about the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Ateeq said the Kashmir committee is a right step. He said that now that India is engaged in genocide against Kashmiris and is committing state terrorism in occupied Kashmir, Pakistan ought to provide political and moral support to the Kashmiris. The Kashmiri people have not acquired arms from Pakistan to wage their struggle. They are rather fighting with arms acquired in India itself.

Sardar Mohammad Ateeq denied that any formula or any other option on Kashmir was being considered. Reports about these formulas are the figment of the imagination of certain people. Any settlement of the Kashmir problem should be found in accordance with the UN resolutions, he stressed.

Replying to a question about the causes of his resignation from the post of chief organizer of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Mohammad Ateeq said the Muslim Conference is a big party, in which differences may surely crop up. I was being held responsible for the dissension, so I thought it better to resign rather than provide explanations and my step was in the best interest of the party and the country, he observed.

About the charge-sheet released by the Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Ateeq Ahmad Khan said that he had not read the charge-sheet, but he had heard that a great deal had been said about him in that paper. He paid tribute to Mohammad Afzal Khan, the federal minister for Kashmir affairs, saying it was by virtue of his political foresight that the Federal Government did not interfere in Azad Kashmir affairs.

Bipartisan Declaration on Kashmir Issued

BK2603142795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An all-parties joint declaration on Kashmir reflecting national consensus on this issue and expressing complete solidarity with the struggling people of Jammu and Kashmir was issued today. Unveiling the joint declaration at a news conference in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Islamabad this afternoon, the chairman of parliament committee on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said the leaders of the political parties have unanimously agreed on the declaration.

The joint declaration on Kashmir condemn the use of brutal force by Indian Government to suppress the indigenous struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to secure their right of self-determination through an impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. The declaration condemn the refusal of the Indian Government to implement resolutions of the UN Security Council enabling the people of Jammu and Kashmir to decide their future. It called upon the global community to impose economic sanctions and embargoes on India for large-scale human rights violation.

The joint declaration has been signed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and prominent political leaders of the country.

Fifty-Member British Investment Mission Arrives

BK2503083695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A 50-member British investment mission arrived in Islamabad today on a week-long visit to Pakistan. Representing 38 British financial and commercial organizations, the mission will explore opportunities for trade and investment in Pakistan. The delegation will attend the agreement-signing ceremony for the establishment of a UK-Pakistan forum for industry and trade. The forum will be set up in Islamabad on 26 March. The British investment delegation will also visit Peshawar, Lahore, and Karachi to help promote investments in different fields in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Lapsed Deadline Causes 'Red Alert'

BK2803060495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0519 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, March 28 (AFP)—Security forces went on red alert in Sri Lanka as a deadline set by separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas to resume stalled peace talks with the government lapsed Tuesday, defence officials said.

Armed forces were ordered to step up their patrols and roadblocks in the capital, as well as in northern and eastern regions where the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group is active, officials said.

"We have tightened security all round but there are no immediate signs of fighting breaking out. We are only taking basic precautionary measures," a defence official said.

The LTTE had asked the government to completely lift an economic embargo on their stronghold on the northern Jaffna peninsula and dismantle a key military base by Tuesday to end the impasse in their peace talks.

The Tiger supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, had warned of "dire consequences" unless his demands were met by Tuesday. The government for its part has played down the ultimatum, saying the peace process was still on course.

The Tigers, who have been campaigning for a separate state called Eelam in northeast Sri Lanka for the country's two million Tamils, have refused to negotiate a political package until the government lifted an economic embargo on Jaffna.

Unofficial approaches by the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga have also been rejected by the LTTE.

President Kumaratunga who initiated the peace effort after coming to power in August is currently on a week-long visit to India and Bangladesh. More than 30,000 people have died in ethnic strife in Sri Lanka since 1972.

A journalist who travelled to the LTTE-held Jaffna peninsula last week said the Tigers were unhappy with the five "unofficial communications" they received from the government.

"Tigers said there were discrepancies between official letters and the unofficial ones and wanted the government to stop sending such communications," the journalist who works for a Sinhalese-language weekly said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.